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Dr. N. S. Davis at the age of about 60. Reproduced from steel engraving.

The Life

of

Nathan Smith Davis

A. M., M. D., LL. D.

1817——1904

"I have taught thee in the way of wisdom;
I have led thee in right paths."---Prov. iv. 11.

By

I. N. Danforth, A. M., M. D.
Chicago, Ill.

Illustrated

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1907

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TO THE MEMORY OF

ISAAC DANFORTH, M. D.

1763——1851

AND

SAMUEL PARKMAN DANFORTH, M. D.,

1810——1865

TWO VERMONT PHYSICIANS

WHO DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO THE

ELEVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

OF THE

SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

OF MEDICINE.

PREFACE.

I began writing the life of Dr. Davis with great reluctance; I close my task with greater reluctance. For several months past he has been my constant companion, I might almost say, day and night. As I have studied his austere personality, and his rugged character, so transparent and genuine, my respect for the man has grown day by day. I do not, however, for a moment imagine that I have written a life of Dr. Davis that will be satisfactory to the medical profession or the public. A character so colossal needs the perspective of time and distance, before an adequate estimate of its merits or demerits can be formed. Fifty years hence, Nathan Smith Davis will measure up to the altitude of Benjamin Rush and Joseph Warren; then some one will write his life in a worthier manner than is possible at the present time, or by the present biographer. I have tried to be accurate; I have tried to be impartial; I have tried to be just; how far I have succeeded, my readers must judge. I have been much handicapped by the absence of original documents, such as letters, and the various manuscript sources of information usually left by public men; but all these invaluable treasures were unfortunately destroyed a few years ago.

Just at this point, the mail brings me the following letter from the present Dr. N. S. Davis, worthy successor of a noble father, which it gives me great pleasure to receive and to print:

My dear Doctor Danforth:

You have striven most conscientiously to present correctly the facts in my father's life and I believe that you have succeeded.

Unfortunately there have been few manuscript aids for the construction of your work, and my father's cotemporaries are almost all dead. However, in spite of these difficulties you have successfully described the important incidents of his life.

It has been a pleasure to aid you as far as possible.

Very sincerely yours, N. S. Davis.

I cannot close without expressing my profound gratitude to Madam Davis, widow of Dr. N. S. Davis, who still survives him, for her patient assistance and counsel as my work has progressed, and to her son, the pres-

ent Dr. Davis. I am under deep obligations for his helpful counsel. I take pleasure, also, in expressing my thanks to my friend, Dr. L. B. Hayman, who has been of great assistance in helping me to correct proofs, and in guiding me over sundry rough places, which I encountered because of my slight acquaintance with the "technique" of the printer.

905 W. Monroe street. I. N. D.

September, 1907.

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INTRODUCTORY.

The subject of the following memoir took his medical degree in January, 1837, while he was yet a minor, and immediately engaged in medical practice. But the world he entered at the threshold of his professional life was a very different world from the one he left, nearly seventy years afterwards. It will be interesting to glance briefly at some of the conditions in our country at that time.

In the South, the condition of the slave had become a source of great anxiety. The "abolitionists" were at work tooth and nail, and one of them, David Walker, a free negro, published his "Appeal" in 1829, a hot-headed pamphlet which exasperated the slaveholders and unsettled the slaves.

Benjamin Lundy, William Lloyd Garrison, Elijah Lovejoy and other determined spirits in the North, espoused the cause of the slave, and their appeals in the public press and on the platform aroused intense excitement North and South. In 1831 came "Turner's Rebellion," a mad-cap outbreak by twenty or thirty negroes, under the leadership of a Virginia slave, named Nat Turner, which set the slave-holding states into a hysterical fear of a general revolt among their bondmen. But as fifty-five men, women and children were slain by Turner and his followers, it is not strange that southern people believed that the smouldering volcano upon which they stood, was about to break forth into fury.

Considerable anxiety was also beginning, in regard to the immigration of the paupers, cripples, invalids, idiots and "distracted persons," from Europe to this land of liberty and of plenty, and restrictive legislation was being discussed in a tentative way. As a consequence, a "Native American" party of small proportions but ominous import, sprung up, survived its little day and faded out—precursor of the more pretentious "Know-Nothingism" of the fifties.

Travel was mainly by the old fashioned stage coach (the "Concord coach," built in Concord, N. H., was the acme of style and luxury), but a few short and very primitive railways had been built experimentally, yet not a single railway was in regular and successful operation until 1830, when the road from Baltimore to Ellicott's Mills, about 13 miles long, was opened, and it was regarded as almost beyond belief that the whole 13 miles was made in sixty-nine minutes, and that Peter Cooper's locomo-

tive demonstrated that it could go round a curve "without danger." Nevertheless, there was great opposition to railways, and the old "strap" rails, with their perilous "snake heads," were not calculated to inspire faith in the new mode of travel, and so the Concord coach, the canal boat and the "prairie schooner" still held their own. But the "experts" were laboriously trying to decide whether steam power or horse power should haul the railroad train of the future, and John Stevens, the father of American railways, was vainly trying to "finance" (but not Harrimanize), his projected railway from Philadelphia to Columbus.

During these years mail robberies were frequent, and the question of Sunday mails was agitating the churches and the people. But meantime other great events were taking place and great discoveries were being made. Cyrus H. McCormick had invented his reaper; the steamboat had become a practicable and profitable venture; the use of anthracite and bituminous coals had passed the experimental stage; the sewing machine had become an actuality and the rotary printing press had supplanted its venerable predecessor.

When we turn to the condition of the jails, prisons, houses of correction, penitentiaries or whatever else they were called; and to the treatment of the patients in the lunatic asylums and similar institutions, we find a sad and shameful story. It does not seem possible that in this country of ours, a lunatic was "jailed for eight years, during which time he had left his room but twice, and for eighteen months the door had never been opened; food and water was thrust through a hole in the door." In a cellar "were five lunatics in cells six by eight feet." And so on *ad nauseam.*

The prisons throughout the country were dirty, full of infection, ill-ventilated, and in every way disgusting. Solitary confinement, imprisonment for debt, the pillory, the whipping post, cropping the ears, branding with the "scarlet letter," and standing on the gallows with a rope around one's neck for an hour or more; these were some of the refined and elevating methods of punishment still in vogue during the boyhood and young manhood of the man whose career we are to study. It is but just to add, however, that a reform movement was already under way and before 1840 considerable progress had been made in the direction of decency and humanity.

In the political world Andrew Jackson's second term as President was drawing to a close. His administration had been a turbulent one; he had strangled "nullification," thus putting off the evil day of secession for a quarter of a century; had closed the United States Bank, and had done sundry other things, equally positive and radical, and was about to retire to his beloved "Hermitage," having as many devoted friends and

as many bitter enemies, as any man in this or any other country. Then came the administration of Jackson's "man Friday"—"that slender little gentleman, always courteous, always placid, always ready to listen"*—Martin Van Buren, with its crushing financial panic, suspension of specie payments, bread riots and general distress among all classes of people, during which "the country went staggering and bewildered through its season of bitter ruin."**

But the country survived; the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" campaign of 1840," succeeded, the cry of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," was in every schoolboy's mouth; the very hens were said to cackle "Tip Tip, Tip Tip, Tyler," and the land-slide from Jackson and Van Buren to the "hero of Tippecanoe," William Henry Harrison, illustrated in a graphic way, the vagaries of "we the people." But Harrison's brief term of about a month closed with his death. John Tyler took the helm, and the Tylerized administration began its baleful existence.

Very soon plans for stealing Texas were developing, the Mexican war cloud began to show above the horizon, and mutterings, both loud and deep of the "irrepressible conflict," were heard in all sections of the country. Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Hayne, Van Buren, Lewis Cass, Roger B. Taney, of malodorous memory, and slippery, foxy James Buchanan, whose name brings the blush of shame to the cheeks of his countrymen; these were some of the men who were at the front in the days whereof we speak.

By the year 1820, literature in the United States had assumed a respectable attitude, and the question was no longer sneeringly asked in England, "who reads an American book?" Irving, Cooper, Bryant, Longfellow, Jared Sparks, John Marshall and a few others, were gaining a favorable recognition in the realms of authorship, and were building up a purely American literature of permanent value.***

In medical literature not very rapid strides had been made, which is by no means to be wondered at, since ample clinical facilities and prolonged clinical study and observation, must precede authorship in the domain of practical medicine and surgery; and in the two decades from 1820 to 1840, adequate opportunities for clinical study were few and far between in the United States. As a consequence, in those days, text-books and monographs on medicine and surgery were mainly either those which were written in England or translations of books written on the continent of Europe. Nevertheless, a creditable beginning had been made in the devel-

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**History of the American People,* by Woodrow Wilson, iv., 63.

***Op. cit.* p. 71.

***For much of the above I am indebted to that ideal work, McMaster's *"History of the American People."*

opment of a purely American medical literature. Chapman's "Therapeutics and Materia Medica," Samuel Jackson's "Principles of Medicine," Eberle's "Practice of Medicine," Bartlett's "Fevers of the United States," Hosack's "Lectures on Theory and Practice," the writings of Dr. Daniel Drake, and various monographs, among which Dr. W. W. Gerhard's "Treatise on Diagnosis of Diseases of the Chest" deserves prominent mention; these are a few of the more prominent American works on the Practice of Medicine and cognate subjects, to which the young American physician had access in the first half of the last century.

For many years perhaps Dunglison's "System of Physiology" was the standard, and the same should be said of his "Medical Dictionary," a work which gave him the sobriquet of "Dictionary Dunglison."

In the domain of surgery, Dr. Geo. McClellan's "Principles and Practice of Surgery," Gibson's "Institutes and Practice of Surgery," Dorsey's "Elements of Surgery," Gross' "Diseases and Injuries of the Bones and Joints," and a few other works of less importance occupied the field of American surgical authorship.

In the field of obstetrics and diseases of women, the works of Dewees, Hugh L. Hodge and Chas. D. Meigs, easily took and held the lead for many years, as they were clearly entitled to do. They were three remarkable men, and they exercised a remarkable influence upon the medical profession of their generation.

The practice of medicine and surgery in the days whereof we write, was as unlike the practice of medicine and surgery at the present day as it is possible to imagine. The practice of medicine was, to all intents and purposes, a great system of empiricism. In fact it could not be otherwise. "Scientific" medicine was not even in its infancy; it was yet *in utero,* there to remain for many long years, and then to undergo a slow and wearisome parturition, followed by a period of infancy and adolescence, before it emerged into manhood. Those of us who remember the practice of medicine only as far back as the sixties, can testify to the crude ideas which governed the equally crude methods of practice; and when we compare the methods of those days with the comparatively enlightened and scientific methods of these days, we can realize, as the younger men cannot, that we have "seen a great light."

In surgery, the story is about the same; of course, as surgery is more mechanical, and the surgeon's work is more immediately under his eye than is the work of the physician, better results ought to be expected. Simple fractures were probably treated as successfully by the elder Warren as they are by the most skillful surgeons of to-day. But operative surgery was fearfully crude; plastic surgery was an almost untouched field;

abdominal surgery was a *bete noir,* and of course aseptic surgery was not even a dream. When we turn to the department of obstretrics, we enter a veritable chamber of horrors. It was a rare instance when the parturient woman escaped some form of post-partum infection, and the new-born child encountered perils of which it was happily ignorant. When we consider the frightful frequency of puerperal fever—against which the genial Autocrat of the Breakfast Table thundered so forcefully*—when we consider how common were cases of pelvic cellulitis, mammary abscess, septic phlebitis, not to mention erysipelas, unrecognized albuminuria, with an occasional case of auricular embolism, which was of course a case of "heart failure;" and then when we thankfully contemplate the remarkable immunity of the puerpera from these and various other post-partum accidents at the present day, we begin to get a practical and tangible realization of the changes that have occurred since commencement day in the *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Western New York,* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

And then comes the question, will our children and grandchildren have occasion to exercise the same degree of charity towards us, that we are called upon to extend to our grandfathers?

"Specialism" was almost a *terra incognita* seventy years ago, and hence the eye, ear, nose and throat, and various other component parts of the human body, had comparatively quiet times, but they are making up for it now. It is a well-known fact that the distinguished physician whose life I have attempted to depict in the following pages, was no admirer of "Specialism" or the "Specialist" in medicine; in fact as he never did anything by halves, he had a thorough contempt for "Specialists," which he could not have concealed if he would, and would not if he could. Perhaps this was due in part to the absurd divisions and subdivisions of "specialism" in this our day, which is not calculated to inspire respect either inside or outside the profession,** while it does encourage the alarming increase of quack and semi-quack specialists, which are almost as numerous as the frogs of Egypt and decidedly more dangerous. It is no wonder that a physician of the olden time, and one not given to changing his mind with every change of wind, should have looked with no friendly eyes upon an innovation so far-reaching and revolutionary. After all, the wonder is that the physician of half or three-quarters of a century ago, achieved such good results with such indifferent means; we who sur-

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*As late as 1870, a justly distinguished professor of obstetrics in Chicago told the author that puerperal fever was not contagious.

**Not long since a lady called upon the author, and inquired if he knew a specialist who "doctored the liver and nothing else"!

vive them owe them a debt of gratitude, honor and respect, utterly beyond our ability to liquidate.

The life of the farmer and of the minister and of the lawyer, seventy years ago, varied as much from that of the present day as did the life of the doctor, but we cannot enter into lengthy details. They all helped to develop this splendid country of ours, and make it what it is to-day. The clergy were a devoted band of men who "did justly, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God." The lawyers perhaps did the same thing, but this present author would not like to give a written guarantee to that effect. But the farmer's life, and the life of the farmer's wife, could not be compared with the conditions of to-day. The whirr of the spinning wheel, the chug of the old-fashioned churn, and the dismal creak of the ancient cheese press were still heard in the land. Farming was done by hand; the slow-going oxen hauled the plow; the scythe whisked through the sweet-smelling hay, and the sickle laid low the golden grain; in autumn the old cider mill groaned aloud as it crushed the juicy apples, and the husking bee, with its "red ear" frolics, came with the first snow flakes. In winter the sound of the flail was heard, the farmer took his grist to the mill, and his boys and girls to singing school, to spelling school, and with a thankful heart, to church on the Sabbath.

At such an epoch, and amid such an environment did Dr. N. S. Davis begin his professional life, which was to last more than sixty years. It falls to the lot of few men to witness such marvelous changes and such prodigious advances, in everything that means progress and increased comfort and happiness for his fellowmen.

CHAPTER I.

Childhood—Youth—College Days.

Nathan Smith Davis was born on the 9th of January, 1817, in a log house, in the town of Greene, County of Chenango, and State of New York. His parents were among the pioneer settlers in the midst of the virgin forests of that then far western region. His father's name was Dow Davis, who lived to the extraordinary age of ninety years, and died upon the farm which he had reclaimed from the primitive forest and its savage denizens. His first name he derived in some unexplained way from Rev. Lorenzo Dow, a very eccentric, yet very able, vagrant preacher, who started out as a Methodist, but ended in "no-man's-land," after wandering over the greater part of the then civilized world.

Dr. Davis' mother's maiden name was Eleanor Smith. She died in 1824 when young Nathan was but seven years old.

No greater calamity can possibly happen to a child of tender years than the loss of a mother, and the watchful, loving care, which only a mother can give. At a complimentary banquet given to Dr. Davis by the medical profession of Chicago, October 5th, 1901, when the doctor was 84 years old, he made the following touching and beautiful references to his mother: "At the age of seven years, as a boy who had never been outside of his father's farm, born in a log house, and when still in a log house, I was called to the bedside of my dying mother to receive her last words. I was the youngest of a family of seven children; I was in my seventh year. It made a vivid impression upon my mind. She was a Christian—a reader of the Bible. She said to me that she wished me to be a good boy, to learn to worship God, and to do good to my fellowmen. I promised her I would. Of course I did not realize the importance or bearing of that promise at that early period of life, but an impression was made upon my mind, and from that day to this the rule of my life has been that whatever comes up that seems to be important and will improve my fellowmen, my impulse is to do what I can to help it along."* Noble words; and true to the letter, as Dr. Davis exemplified throughout his long and fruitful life.

Dr. Davis' name, "Nathan Smith," was derived from a maternal uncle, and not from the eminent Doctor Nathan Smith, of Cornish, New Hamp-

*"*Report of Testimonial Banquet,*" October, 1901.

shire, the founder of the Medical Department of Dartmouth College, as so many of us have supposed.

I have not been able to trace the ancestry of either of Dr. Davis' parents with anything like satisfaction or certainty. That they emigrated from Massachusetts to central New York seems certain; that they joined the Puritan hegira from England during the days of the Stuart persecutions seems altogether probable, but cannot be stated with certainty.

Young Nathan's childhood was monotonously uneventful. The farmers' sons, in the pioneer days of New England and western New York, were brought up to "work," and well they knew what that uncompromising little word meant. "Work" meant getting up with the sun, and "working" till the sun went down; the same routine, day after day, with only the vacation which a rainy day, or Training Day, or Fast Day, or Thanksgiving Day, or Fourth of July, or the rigid solemnity of the Sabbath brought. Farming in those days was all done "by hand," and hard and weary work it was. When winter came there was three or four months of "schooling," but every winter brought a new teacher, and generally one whose qualifications were limited to such text books as Webster's Spelling Book, Adam's Arithmetic, Lindley Murray's Grammar and Morse's Geography. The teachers of those days, however, were usually pretty proficient in the use of a well-selected rod of birch, annealed and toughened in the hot ashes of the fire-place or stove.

And thus the first sixteen years of young Davis' life passed away. We do not learn that he did any heroic deeds, or encountered any romantic episodes, or gave any special promise of future greatness or usefulness. He was simply a "good boy," according to the promise made to his dying mother; industrious, faithful, truthful and eminently in earnest in whatever he undertook. But during these early years of hard work his appetite for knowledge began to manifest itself, and it grew as he grew, and very early in his life it became, not a "passion," but a deeply-settled, all-pervasive motive, which dominated his thoughts and his plans for the future. His fondness for study, his aptitude for acquiring knowledge, and a consequent languor and want of interest in farming pursuits very soon attracted his father's notice, and convinced him that the boy ought to have some facilities for acquiring an education better and broader than those afforded by the district-school. His decision was probably hastened by the fact that on going to the field on a certain occasion, he found Nathan trying to guide a plough, which the slow-moving oxen were hauling, in the proper direction with one hand, while in the other he held a book in which his attention was absorbed. Dow Davis was not very familiar with books, but he did know, from long experience, that effective plowing required the undivided attention of two hands and a head, as well as a yoke of oxen, and he at once

resolved that Nathan should plough in a different and more attractive field. It is greatly to the credit of Dow Davis that he had the perception to discover the type and bent of Nathan's mind, and that, out of his limited means, he found a way to send his ambitious and promising son to the neighboring Cazenovia Seminary, if only for a single term. But that single term was sufficient to demonstrate to the boy of only sixteen, that "knowledge is power," and that unremitting industry is the key to its possession. It is altogether probable that the discipline which the plastic youth of sixteen received during that single term in Cazenovia Seminary determined his future course in life, and shaped the habit of systematic industry which he followed to his dying day.

In the month of April, 1834, when he was only seventeen years old, Nathan Smith Davis commenced the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. Daniel Clark, of Chenango County, New York, and "worked" for his board.

It would be hardly possible to make a more drastic commentary on the system of medical education as it was carried on seventy years ago than the simple statement of the above fact. A youth seventeen years old, with practically no previous preparatory training, is allowed to enroll himself as a medical student, complete the required course in less than three years, and assume the highest responsibilities in the reach of man, while he is yet a beardless youth; and in the present case such was the literal fact, for young Davis graduated from the "College of Physicians and Surgeons of Western New York" in January, 1837, "with distinguished honor," says one of his eulogists. Between the date of his registration as a medical student under Dr. Clark, his preceptor, and his graduation "with distinguished honor," there was a period of two years and nine months, and at his graduation he was just twenty years old; in other words, an "infant" in the eyes of the law. Yet the "College of Physicians and Surgeons of Western New York"—a school which perished of inanition long ago—never did a greater or worthier thing than when it created Nathan Smith Davis a doctor of medicine, and the 31st of January, 1837, proved to be an epoch-making day in the history of American medicine. In all fairness, however, it should be said that the "College of Physicians and Surgeons of Western New York" was a school of excellent standing in its day, ranking along with the Berkshire Medical School at Pittsfield, Mass.; the Dartmouth School of Medicine,* and other well known country schools, which have long since been absorbed by the larger schools with clinical facilities. Many eminent men occupied its professorships, and many eminent men received its diplomas.

*The Dartmouth School of Medicine is still in the front rank, and is doing excellent work.

Among its professors was T. Romeyn Beck, whose lectures on medical jurisprudence charmed young Davis, and awakened in him a lasting interest in that branch.

Young Davis attended three courses of lectures prior to his graduation, and found himself wondering at the fact that the three courses were all alike, and that all the students attended all the lectures, and travelled exactly the same course from year to year. In other words, even before his own graduation, the inconsistencies and incongruities of the system of medical education as it was carried on became apparent to him, and the germs of the "graded course" took root in his mind, to ripen into a solid and enduring monument to his creative genius in the years to follow.

We know nothing of N. S. Davis' student days, but it is perfectly safe to assume that he was a hard-working student, who made the most of his time and opportunities; that he was faithful in his attendance upon the lectures and recitations; that in the correctness of his deportment he was an example to his classmates and a delight to his teachers, and we can easily imagine that he may have asked those teachers some puzzling questions now and then, and that his grave, earnest, serious face, prominent forehead and Gladstonian nose would attract their attention, and extort from them some predictions as to the future of that unusual student. His biographer also feels perfectly safe in hazarding the assertion that the student by the name of Davis never was "passed up," never smoked cigarettes, never came home at night when he was unable to find the keyhole, never fell in love with the "college widow," and never indulged in any of the rowdyish freaks which have always accentuated and frequently disgraced student life.

A short time prior to his graduation, he entered the office of Dr. Thomas Jackson, of Binghamton, New York, as a student, and remained with Dr. Jackson until he received his degree of doctor of medicine. As Dr. Jackson was a practitioner of more than average ability and enjoyed a large and varied practice, young Davis' advantages in a clinical way were undoubtedly much improved by the change from Dr. Clark, his first preceptor.

In days of yore, every candidate for the degree of doctor of medicine was required to write a "thesis," and he might be required to read and defend it before the faculty of his college. The subject of Dr. Davis' graduating thesis was "Animal Temperatures," and in this he combated the (then) generally accepted theory that the evolution of animal heat had its origin in the union of oxygen and carbon in the lungs, maintaining that its evolution was in the tissues. The inherent merit of his argument was such, and the premises upon which it rested were so accurately established by experimental investigation, that the faculty of the college selected it as one of those to be

publicly read on the day of graduation.* That Dr. Davis, at the age of 20 could write such a thesis, and especially one that was thought worthy of graduation honors, seems very remarkable. For it must not be forgotten that he was only a youthful farmer's son, whose educational advantages had been very meagre, and that his opportunities for scientific experimentation must have been scanty indeed.

And now, the die is cast: Nathan Smith Davis is a "doctor," and the proud possessor of a "sheepskin," tied with a bright ribbon, sealed with the college seal, signed by the "professors," and the whole thing done in college Latin, either good or bad—and to the majority of students in those days, it did not make much difference which.

The farewells are said, the usual promises "to write" are made, but not kept, and the young doctors scatter to the four winds, never to meet again on earth. The future career of one of them we shall endeavor to trace in the succeeding chapters.

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*"*Group of Distinguished Physicians and Surgeons,*" p. 2.

CHAPTER II.

Marriage; Early Professional Life.

Some time during the month of February, 1837, a new and very youthful doctor appeared in the little village of Vienna, Oneida county, New York. His name was Nathan Smith Davis, and then and there a remarkable man began his long and eventful career. Dr. Davis formed a partnership with Dr. Daniel Chatfield, of Vienna, and we can easily imagine that Dr. Chatfield soon found that his youthful partner had some positive notions of his own, in spite of his inexperience. We know nothing concerning his life in Vienna, except that he found time to fall in love with Miss Anna Maria Parker, daughter of Hon. John Parker, of Vienna, and that they were married on the 5th day of March, 1838. Dr. Davis died June 16th, 1904; therefore, they lived together the almost unprecedented term of sixty-six years, three months and eleven days! It does not need to be said that they lived in beautiful harmony, and that wedded life was never more felicitous, never more ideal, and never came nearer fulfilling the lofty requirements of its Divine author than in the case of Nathan Smith Davis, aged twenty-one years, and Maria Parker Davis, aged seventeen years, at the time of their marriage.

There were born to them three children: Ellen Parker Davis, born April 12th, 1842.

Frank Howard Davis, born June 5th, 1848; died Aug. 17, 1880. He attended the University of Michigan for two years and graduated from Chicago Medical College in 1871. He entered into practice in Chicago and gave great promise of usefulness, and his untimely death was a loss to the profession and to the city.

Nathan Smith Davis, Jr., born Sept. 5th, 1858, now in practice in Chicago, and late Dean of the Northwestern University Medical School.

The field of operations in Vienna seems to have been too narrow for the expanding energies of our young doctor, and in July, 1837, less than six months after he went there, his partnership with Dr. Chatfield was dissolved, and he went to Binghamton, New York, where, it is stated, "he at once commanded professional confidence and popular patronage"—an oratorical explosion that must probably be taken *cum grano salis*. It is altogether more likely that he had the usual experience of

young doctors, and that his entry into practice was slow and progressive. But we may be very sure that his time was not spent in idleness, or frivolity.

During these early years of his professional life, Dr. Davis was a hard-working and very systematic student. He studied Latin, all alone, and made himself a respectable Latin scholar; he studied botany and made himself an expert botanist: he made himself familiar with the principles and ground work of chemistry, geology and political economy, besides giving particular attention to surgical anatomy, as his practice was largely surgical. He also kept in familiar touch with the current literature of the day, and hence he soon became known as one of the most intelligent and progressive young men in Binghamton. During the winter months, he pursued the study of practical anatomy by dissecting one or two cadavers, and he frequently responded to requests to lecture on physiology, botany, chemistry and allied subjects before the classes of the Binghamton Academy, at that time a school of considerable local repute, and of which he was one of the founders. He also had a hand in organizing the "Lyceum Debating Society of Binghamton," and we may be quite sure that he did his full share of the debating. It is easy to imagine that his intellectual gymnastics before the Lyceum Debating Society of Binghamton, contributed materially towards making him the powerful and incisive debater which in his later years rendered him such a terror to his opponents.

In the year 1840 (three years after his graduation), he won the first prize of the New York State Medical Society, for the best essay on "Diseases of the Spinal Column; their Causes, Diagnosis and Treatment." In 1841 he captured another prize as a reward for a paper entitled, "Analysis of the Discoveries Concerning the Physiology of the Nervous System." These two essays were widely read, and attracted considerable notice and comment from the medical profession of his native state.

Soon after his settlement in Binghamton, he was elected a delegate to the Broome County Medical Society, of which organization he was Secretary from 1841 to 1843, and Librarian from 1843 to 1847, besides being a member of the Board of Censors for several years. In 1844, he was chosen a delegate to represent the Broome County Medical Society at the annual meeting of the State Medical Society, at Albany. And this appearance of Dr. Davis, as a delegate to the New York State Medical Society, in 1844, must be regarded as the beginning of his long and remarkable public life; a life which was none the less public and none the less notable because it was nearly all spent in connection with, and for the uplifting of, the medical profession.

When this grave, serious, albeit modest young man made his appearance in Albany, and presented his credentials as a delegate from

Broome County, he must have been considerably surprised to find that his reputation as a writer, and a clear-headed and incisive reasoner, had preceded him, and we can easily picture his embarrassment at finding himself so well and so favorably known. It is stated that "when he took his seat as a delegate in the body which represented the highest medical learning of the State, his voice was heard with respectful attention."* Even at this early date, and during his first term of attendance upon the New York State Medical Society, he commenced that remarkable campaign in the interests of higher medical education, which led very soon to the establishment of the *American Medical Association,* and at a later stage to the adoption of his plan, substantially, of medical education, not only in Chicago, but all over this country. But this subject will claim our attention *in extenso,* in a subsequent chapter.

After about ten years of active practice in Binghamton, Dr. Davis decided to transfer his activities to a still larger field, and he accordingly removed to New York City in the summer of 1847. His life in Binghamton was evidently a very active and busy one. His practice—which was the *very* "general" practice of a country physician sixty years ago—was a strenuous and laborious one. Only those who have experienced the multifarious perplexities and responsibilities which used to beset the country doctor, can actually *see* Dr. Davis as he made his weary rounds, up hill and down, night and day, in the heat of summer and cold of winter, in rain or snow, and wind or dust, carrying and dispensing his medicines from saddlebags or trunk, and ministering to all sorts and conditions of men, women and children, with all sorts of complaints, real and imaginary, surgical, medical, obstetrical and psychical, to say nothing of the tooth-pulling with the invincible old "turnkey," and the spring and autumn venesections, which almost came to be a "fetich" not only with the people, but with many of the practitioners of half a century ago. It is easy enough to imagine that his active mind travelled far faster than his body could traverse the gravelled roads, and that during these years of early toil, he was planting the seed which should bear such splendid fruitage in his more mature years.

During his Binghamton decade, he was a busy and systematic student; the natural sciences, Latin, English literature, political economy, and medical jurisprudence, each by turn, claimed his attention, and he became, in no narrow sense, not a "classic scholar," from the standpoint of the pedagogue, but an all-around learned man, with a broad, practical knowledge of matters and things, and with the ability to make use of his

Op. Cit., p. 3.

knowledge in furthering the best interests, first of his profession, and secondly of his community.

During these initial years, also, he dabbled a little in politics, and during the "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" campaign, he "stumped" Broome County, in the interests of the Democratic party, for Dr. Davis was a "dyed in the wool" Democrat." He likewise lectured on various topics to various political, social, scientific and religious bodies, wrote many articles, mostly on medical subjects, and mostly ephemeral, and we may be sure that he did not forget that death-bed scene of his childhood, and that he did not neglect the worship of God, or the study of the Bible.

At the time of his removal to New York City, in the summer of 1847, Dr. Davis was thirty years old, and he probably concluded that it was time for him to "settle for life." New York City was at that time rapidly approaching its position as the American metropolis. Its population was something over four hundred thousand, and it was growing very rapidly. It was also assuming a notable importance as a centre of medical education, and that of course presented a strong attraction to a young and ambitious medical man. It was therefore quite the natural thing that Dr. Davis should decide to remove to the great city, where the advantages were so superior and so many. Yet his stay in New York was only for two years; not long enough for anything very decisive or eventful to occur. He entered into general practice, with what degree of success we have no very definite information. It goes without saying that he connected himself with the local medical organizations, and that he was welcomed by the profession with the courtesy to which his merits and his recognized ability entitled him. His first experience as a medical teacher occurred in New York, when he was given charge of the dissecting rooms of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, and entered upon the teaching of practical anatomy. He also delivered a course of lectures upon Medical Jurisprudence—his favorite study—during the spring term of 1848, by special invitation of the faculty of the same institution.

It is hardly necessary to call attention to the fact that very few medical men are qualified to lecture upon a subject so far out of the trodden paths of medical education as Medical Jurisprudence, and especially an ordinary practitioner so young as Dr. Davis then was. In fact it must be regarded as a very high compliment to him that he was "specially invited" by the faculty of his college to deliver these lectures, and it must also be accepted as indubitable evidence of the broad range of his knowledge, and the masterful grasp of his mind, even at this early day.

But Davis' stay in New York was destined to be brief, and after spending a little more than two years in the metropolis of the Empire State,

he gathered up his "lares and penates" and began his long and weary journey by railway, stage, canal boat, and "packet" to the then shabby and muddy town by the great inland sea, which was to become the metropolis, not only of the Prairie State, but of the great and wonderful west. Thither we will follow him, and there we will study and admire, even if we cannot imitate, his long, eventful and altruistic career.

CHAPTER III.

Removal to Chicago—Connection with Rush Medical College.

One who walks through the stately streets of Chicago in this year of grace, 1907, can hardly imagine its condition fifty-eight years ago. Its population was then about 23,000, whereof the great majority were employed in operating the growing industrial interests of the city. The buildings were mainly of wood, with little attempt at elegance or architecture. The streets were mostly unpaved, and were either wretchedly dusty or wretchedly muddy. Many of the highways were rendered impassable by a moderate rainstorm, and signs reading "no bottom" were frequently seen in the middle of the streets warning teamsters to avoid the quagmires which would engulf them if they dared venture to disregard the timely caution. But the city was growing with great rapidity, and was already giving promise of its future greatness, which has so far surpassed the expectations of its most enthusiastic citizens. Nevertheless, it was anything but an alluring place, for a permanent residence, for a man of high intellectual or scientific attainments, especially when compared with New York City, with its schools, libraries, museums and other products of wealth and maturity. At first glance, then, it must cause considerable surprise that a man of the ability and prospects of N. S. Davis should exchange the great advantages of New York, where he was well known and well established, for the meagre advantages of Chicago, where he was a total stranger.

In the month of July, 1849, Dr. John Evans, of Chicago, professor of Obstetrics in Rush Medical College of that city, attending the third meeting of the *American Medical Association,* while in Boston met Dr. Davis, and invited him to accept the chair of physiology and general pathology in Rush College, those two branches being then united in one chair. Dr. Davis accepted, but did not arrive in Chicago until September, about the usual time for the beginning of the lecture term. His first lecture in Rush was delivered in October, 1849. Rush Medical College, (named after the eminent Dr. Benj. Rush of Philadelphia, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence in 1775) was founded in 1843, chiefly, if not wholly, by Dr. Daniel Brainard. It was therefore in the sixth year of its existence when Dr. Davis connected himself with it. Its first permanent building, at the corner of North Dearborn and Indiana Streets, had recently been built, and the prospects of the college as to permanency and prosperity were very flattering. The rapid growth of Chicago and of the vast area tributary

thereto gave great promise of development and usefulness to Rush, then the only medical school within a radius of several hundred miles. Moreover, the personality and reputation of such men as John Evans and Daniel Brainard were sure to attract students, and thus guarantee the success and stability of the school. Such considerations as these doubtless appealed to Dr. Davis, and were efficient make-weights in influencing his decision to cast his future lot with the young city and the younger medical school.

Here we find him, then, in the early autumn of 1849 with his devoted wife and two young children, entering upon his remarkable career of more than half a century, during which time he was to write his name and engrave his character in imperishable words and deeds upon the archives of his adopted city. He was at this period thirty-two years of age, according to the calender, but his maturity of mind and character rather befitted a man of fifty. He was already well known to the medical profession throughout the country, partly through his contributions to the medical periodicals, but chiefly through his efficient agency in the establishment of the *American Medical Association.* He was also well known as the champion of higher medical education, and more exacting preliminary training.

Dr. Davis entered upon his duties as professor of physiology and general pathology in Rush Medical College with his usual earnestness, fidelity and ability. Before his lecture hour arrived he arrived, and when his bell rang, he stepped into the lecture room, and the business of the hour began, without any display of oratory or pyrotechnics, but he *had,* and *held,* the thoughtful attention of the entire class from start to finish. He was a natural teacher; a teacher who could impart knowledge so as to interest and instruct a class of young men without worrying them with tiresome platitudes of stale wisdom, or disgusting them with explosions of windy oratory. I am told that even in these early days of his teaching, his command of language was regarded as remarkable. His sentences were short, terse and incisive, and he had the unusual gift of being able to select the words which expressed his thoughts in the strongest manner, without repetition or redundancy. And such a teacher as this, whether in a medical or any other school, is always strong with his classes, and it is therefore not strange that Dr. Davis was a beloved as well as a highly respected teacher.

But Dr. N. S. Davis was a *citizen,* and a very public spirited citizen, as well as a doctor and a professor, and it is interesting to note how soon and how readily he entered into the sanitary and engineering problems of Chicago. The water supply of the city was derived altogether from wells, with the exception of a single "pump log" line, which supplied a manufacturing establishment with water pumped from the lake. The surplus was distributed through pump logs to a few citizens; there was no system of sewerage, and so the water from the wells was contaminated by the villainous

surface drainage. Meantime, the water of Lake Michigan, pure and inexhaustible, lay within a stone's throw, and Dr. Davis, with his characteristic energy, urged the establishment of an adequate system of water supply, and a corresponding scheme of drainage. At that time there was no public hospital in Chicago, and so in 1850 he delivered a course of public lectures, enforcing the urgent need of water supply and sewerage. A small admission fee was charged for these lectures, and with the proceeds a small hospital of twelve beds was established, and such was the beginning of the present Mercy Hospital, with its 350 beds, and its admirable equipment for clinical teaching. For nearly forty years, or until his death, Dr. Davis was senior physician to this noble institution, and during the whole of this long period, he was absolutely faithful in his attendance, and his clinics attracted medical men from far and near.

But Dr. Davis' connection with Rush Medical College was destined to be brief. He was still firmly convinced that the lecture terms ought to be lengthened to at least six months; that a standard of preliminary education ought to be required; that a graded curriculum of medical study should be adopted and enforced; and that regular attendance upon hospital and college clinics ought to be required of all students as a pre-requisite to receiving the degree of doctor of medicine. But his ideas were quite too radical to harmonize with those of the majority of his colleagues, and particularly with the autocratic head of the faculty, and practical founder of the college, Prof. Daniel Brainard. It is quite probable, also, that there may have been other sources of friction between Drs. Brainard and Davis, as they were not well calculated to work together in harmony. Both were men of iron will; both were born to command, neither one was fitted to obey. The gentle arts of conciliation and persuasion were alike unknown to both, and it was only a question of time when these two colossal wills would collide, with unpleasant consequences to both.

Rush Medical College was "joined to its idols," and Dr. Davis was unyielding in his educational views. The story goes that soon after Dr. Davis' connection with the college, and during Dr. Brainard's absence in Europe, the annual announcement was prepared for the printer, in which a graded course, a lengthened term and other radical advances were announced; but just before the fated document reached the printer, Dr. Brainard returned, and summarily vetoed the whole plan in his characteristic autocratic manner.

Of course Dr. Davis would not peacefully submit to that, and his course was soon decided upon. In the year 1859 the trustees of Lind University, of Chicago, organized a medical school as a department of that university. The trustees invited Drs. Hosmer A. Johnson, Edmund Andrews and Ralph N. Isham to meet them for the purpose of considering the matter.

At a subsequent meeting these gentlemen again met the university trustees, together with Drs. N. S. Davis, W. H. Byford and David Rutter, and out of this meeting grew the Medical Department of Lind University. The introductory lecture of the first term of instruction was given by Dr. Davis, October 9th, 1859. Of course he had previously severed his connection with Rush Medical College by resignation, as he saw no prospect of a "forward movement" in that institution.

The 9th of October, 1859, must always be regarded as an important epoch in the history of American medicine, and in the history of Chicago. On that day, in a rather obscure city, in the then remote and little known west, under the auspices of a university destined to a brief and otherwise uneventful existence, and under the patronage of a group of medical men who, with a single exception, were not recognized as leaders in the profession, there was inaugurated a movement that was an acute and radical departure from the traditional and venerable methods of teaching which were hallowed by the great names of the numerous and powerful professors of the schools of the Atlantic cities, and by many of those of Europe. It certainly looked like, and as certainly was regarded, as a very impracticable and Utopian scheme, and quite as certainly it would not have been inaugurated then and there but for the powerful and persistent support of Dr. Davis. It is equally certain that it would have shared the untimely fate of Lind University if Dr. Davis had faltered or weakened in his iron determination to advance the standard of medical education in the United States. But from this small and apparently obscure beginning, without financial support or professional encouragement outside of his own faculty, has been evolved the elaborate and comprehensive curriculum of medical education that is now in force in all the reputable medical schools of this country.

It is not often that a "reformer" is so fortunate as to live long enough to see his ideas accepted, adopted and put into practical use; but such was Dr. Davis' felicitous and well-deserved experience, and it was a source of great gratification to him in his declining years.

Financial misfortunes overtook Lind University,* and as its probable demise was foreseen by Dr. Davis and his colleagues, it was deemed best to reorganize the medical department on an independent basis. Accordingly, in 1864, it was organized anew under the name of the Chicago Medical College, but without essential changes in its faculty or plan of teaching. The same strong and devoted men formed the faculty of the Chicago Medical College, but they recognized Dr. Davis' title to leadership by making him president of the institution, and then supporting him by their constant loyalty.

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*Since the above was written, I have been informed that the *Lake Forest University*, of Lake Forest, Illinois, was the "residuary legatee", and successor of Lind University.—I. N. D.

CHAPTER IV.

Professional Career in Chicago—Chicago Medical College—Mercy Hospital.

After the reorganization of the Medical Department of Lind University, under the name of the Chicago Medical College, the administrative work fell largely upon Dr. Davis, and he entered into it *con amore*. It was the opportunity of his life, and he knew it. His theories of medical education were to have a fair and open trial, under his own eye and largely subject to his personal supervision, and a failure would be a calamity both to him personally, and to the ideas for which he had contended so long and so earnestly. Fortunately he had a power of will which nothing could daunt, and fortunately again, he had the constant support of an able and loyal body of colleagues. Yet the early years of the Chicago Medical College were years of hard work and discouragement on the part of the faculty and friends of the college. It was the first college to install the graded system of instruction; to require an entrance examination and stated examinations before students were allowed to pass from the lower to the higher classes. Of course it was a radical departure from the venerable, antiquated and inefficient methods of the past; it required no small degree of self-sacrifice on the part of both students and faculty, and it was sure to meet with opprobrium and ridicule on the part of the older and better known schools. But Dr. Davis and his loyal colleagues held firmly to the plan they had marked out, and the ultimate result was as gratifying as it was remarkable. At this period Dr. Davis was forty-seven years old; he was at the zenith of his intellectual strength; his capacity for work seemed to be without limit, and his industry was only limited by his powers of endurance. With a less resolute and less capable man at the head, the experiment of graded instruction and periodic examinations, upon which basis the Chicago Medical College was founded, would have proven a failure, and the "forward movement," as regards medical education, would have received a back-set until some more fortunate pioneer should arise. But with Dr. Davis it was a case of "this one thing I do," and St. Paul himself could not have shown a more persistent purpose, or a more indomitable will in carrying out his purpose.

In the year 1869, the Chicago Medical College became "affiliated" with the Northwestern University, still, however, retaining its old name. Its government and management remained practically in its faculty, and

of course Dr. Davis still remained its executive head, under the title of Dean. As one happy result of this "affiliation," the Chicago Medical College received about fifteen thousand dollars from the University, which enabled the former to leave the cramped and incommodious quarters on State street and build a more roomy and comfortable edifice at the corner of Twenty-sixth street and Prairie avenue. In 1891 the name was changed to Northwestern University Medical School, and the University acquired a more commanding influence in its management.

In 1892, aided by the gifts of William Deering and Dr. Ephraim Ingals, the faculty were enabled to erect and adequately equip the noble buildings known as the "Laboratory Building" and "Davis Hall" on Dearborn street, between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets, immediately adjacent to Wesley Hospital; and Nathan Smith Davis had the happiness to see the medical school which was so largely due to his unwearied efforts, move into a permanent home, suited to its wants, and sufficiently commodious to accommodate it for many years to come. The buildings were first occupied in 1893-4.

But while the Medical Department of Lind University of 1859, had been changing its name and moving its domicile so many times, it had also undergone other changes of far greater importance. It had become known as the most advanced school in its plan of instruction; it had passed the experimental stage, and had reached a solid foundation, financially and otherwise; its classes had grown in numbers quite as rapidly as its faculty desired, and the *personnel* of the matriculants had improved in every particular. In fact, when the Medical Department of Northwestern University moved into its stately home on Dearborn street in 1893-4, it had become one of the best known and most highly esteemed medical schools in the country.

Meantime the ideas of Dr. Davis had demonstrated their vitality by proving that they were self-propagating. Starting in obscurity and with very slight financial backing, they had become the corner stone of medical education throughout the United States. One by one, slowly, many times doubtfully, many more times unwillingly, the medical schools of our country came to adopt the tripod which was the foundation of Dr. Davis' scheme, and of which he was the pioneer, namely, the enforcement of a standard of preliminary education; the adoption of longer annual courses of college and clinical instruction, and the graded curriculum by which a definite number of branches are assigned to each year. It is not too much, therefore, to say that to Dr. N. S. Davis chiefly, and his loyal colleagues in a scarcely less degree, must be traced the educational "leaven" that has slowly, progressively, but surely and effectually, "leavened the whole lump."

For more than forty years—from 1859 to 1904—Dr. Davis occupied the Professorship of Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine in the Medical Department of Lind University and its successors. His faithful, prompt and unwearied response to the call of the lecture bell was a marvel to all who knew him, and if he missed a lecture, it was simply because some obstacle beyond his control had arisen.

Mercy Hospital, of Chicago, was founded June 21st, 1851. It was the "residuary legatee" of an older institution which was started in October, 1850, under the bombastic name of "The Illinois General Hospital of the Lakes." It was first located in a few rooms in an old hotel building known as the "Lake House," standing at the corner of Michigan and Rush streets, and the necessary money (one hundred dollars), was raised by Dr. Davis, as the proceeds of a course of lectures given by him, in "South Market Hall," then the largest hall in the city. The subject of Dr. Davis' lectures was "The Sanitary Condition of the City." After various vicissitudes, the "Illinois General Hospital of the Lakes" fell into the hands of the Catholic Sisters of Mercy, whereupon it was immediately reorganized and chartered under the name of Mercy Hospital, which name it still bears. It has now (1907) become one of the largest and best equipped hospitals in Chicago. It is still under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, and it is a splendid monument to their single-minded devotion to their holy calling, and of their great ability as organizers.

Dr. Davis was appointed a member of the medical staff of the original "Hospital of the Lakes," was transferred to Mercy Hospital as Senior Physician, and held this position from 1851 until his death in 1904, a period of more than fifty years. On several occasions, shortly prior to his death, he tried to resign, but as Sister Raphael (the Sister Superior) says, "I would not let him." Dr. Davis was probably somewhat influenced in his lavish support of Mercy Hospital by his desire to utilize the ward patients for clinical teaching, but that does not lessen the beneficial results of his support so far as it concerned the sick poor, while it did increase, by many times, its usefulness to the community, in that it supplied them with a corps of clinically trained and competent physicians and surgeons, something they had never known before. Dr. Davis' clinical lectures in the wards and amphitheatre of Mercy Hospital gave him a wide and enviable reputation as a teacher of practical medicine; in fact it is not too much to say he had no superior as a clinical instructor in this country.

In addition to his college and hospital work, Dr. Davis had a large and varied family and office practice. He was never a "specialist," and he had no patience with specialism. He placed peculiar emphasis on the fact that he was a "physician," and that his vocation was not narrowed

or handicapped by specialism. He regarded the family physician of his early and middle life, as the highest type of medical practitioner, and he believed that specialties in medicine were harmful alike to physician and patient. Hence he never limited his own practice to any particular region of the body or system of organs, save that he abandoned surgical practice, perhaps from a natural dislike for it, but more probably because his extensive and ever-widening family practice left no time for the exacting demands of surgery. His office practice was phenomenal, on account of the great number of patients, and their great variety as to nationality and social status. The poor came to him; the rich came to him; the black man and the white man, the Irishman, the Scandinavian, the Teuton and the dark-skinned Italian, without regard to age, sex, color, or elegance or shabbiness of apparel, and they were all treated alike, except that when a poor and ill-clad woman, especially if she happened to have a limp and fretful baby in her arms, came among the crowd, that woman and baby were pretty sure to get prompt attention. He disposed of his cases very rapidly; a few questions, and those straight to the point; he wanted no long-winded descriptions or opinions from his patients, but he did want and would have a direct answer to his questions, without circumlocution or delay. And then a diagnosis, almost by intuition, and a prescription, followed by the invariable fee of *one dollar*, and the consultation, lasting from three to five minutes, in ordinary cases, was over, the patient was dismissed with scant ceremony, the next number was called, and so it went on hour after hour for six days in the week, for a full half century.

But in the investigation of obscure or complicated cases, Dr. Davis showed what manner of man he was. In a calm, judicial and perfectly systematic manner, equally without haste and without hesitancy, but with a deliberate and incisive analysis of signs and symptoms that left no stone unturned, no function unquestioned and no organ with secrets unrevealed, he turned the merciless logic of his master mind upon the case, and when his examination was finished, he knew, or he knew that he did not know, what was the nature and pathology of the case under investigation. And with a frankness and directness that was delightful, he always told what he knew, and what he did not know. When Dr. Davis was really "on his mettle," as I have seen him when I have sought his aid in consultation, his analytic and diagnostic powers were almost phenomenal. His accuracy of sight and touch and hearing; his skill in percussion and auscultation; his art of eliciting information and detecting deception by means of searching interrogatories; but above all, his Baconian method of winnowing the grain from the chaff, and getting at the solid facts in the case, were a lesson once seen never to be forgotten.

His consultation practice for many years was probably the largest of any physician in Chicago, a fact which should not excite surprise, when we remember that added to his great ability was a lofty and high-toned sense of honor, which made the youngest and most timid practitioner feel perfectly at ease when Dr. Davis was his adviser.

I have already alluded to Dr. Davis' considerate kindness for the poor, in his office practice. He was also always ready and willing to visit the poor in their homes by day or night, storm or shine, cold or hot, and only the Recording Angel will ever know how many times he added to his gratuitous visit equally gratuitous gifts of money or supplies for the household, for under his somewhat austere and forbidding personality was hidden a great tender heart, which was not only altruistic but was altruism itself.

For a full half century Dr. Davis pursued his daily routine of making professional calls, attending to his enormous office practice, attending to his executive duties and delivering his lectures at the medical college which was so near to his heart and head, and in fact his pocket, visiting the wards of Mercy Hospital and delivering clinical lectures at the bedside and in the amphitheatre, besides attending to various other duties which, as we shall see presently, devolved upon him as a loyal and public-spirited citizen and "all around" man of affairs. It would be a difficult task to find another man, in all the annals of medicine, who has lived a life so busy; who did so many things, and did them all so well.

CHAPTER V.

Connection with Educational and Charitable Organizations.

Dr. N. S. Davis was a man of many gifts, and he had many calls to exercise them. If he ever refused to engage in the promotion of any enterprise that promised good to his fellow men such refusal has certainly not been made a matter of record. We have seen how ardently and ably he engaged in founding the Chicago Medical College (now the Northwestern University Medical School), and in the upbuilding of Mercy Hospital, and we shall presently see with what energy he entered upon the work of founding the *American Medical Association.*

But these were only drops in the bucket, compared with the long list of societies, organizations or institutions of which he was founder, charter member, or promoter, in some important and commanding capacity.

The Northwestern University, located at Evanston, Illinois, was incorporated in January, 1851. On of the 14th of June following, Dr. Davis was elected a member of the first Board of Trustees; he continued a member for about ten consecutive years, after which he retired for a few years, but was then re-elected, and remained a trustee during the remainder of his life. It is needless to say that he was no "figure-head" trustee; he made himself familiar with the financial and educational affairs of the University, he was invariably present at the meetings of the Board unless unavoidably detained; he took an active, intelligent and influential part in the discussions of the trustees, and he had as much to do with shaping the policies and determining the management of this great institution as any other one man. His name is yet mentioned with profound respect by his surviving colleagues.

When the negotiations were opened looking to the absorption of the Chicago Medical College by the Northwestern University, of course he was the most prominent representative of both medical school and university, and it is a splendid tribute to his just and judicial mind, that a union of the two institutions, so favorable and so beneficial to both, was effected so smoothly and quietly. It needs no violent stretch of even a dull imagination, to understand that it must have been exceedingly gratifying to Dr. Davis to see the Chicago Medical College—the child of his creative genius—placed under the ample wing of Northwestern University, thus insuring its perpetuity and unvarying loyalty to scientific medicine.

It is perhaps difficult to say which has been most benefited by this union, the University or the Medical School.

A meeting of a few of the more prominent physicians of Chicago was called in the early part of the year 1850, for the purpose of taking steps toward forming a medical organization, for mutual improvement, and among them was Dr. Davis. At this meeting a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws and report at a subsequent meeting, which was held April 5th, 1850, when the report of the committee was ratified and the name "Chicago Medical Society"* was adopted. In this movement Dr. Davis was active and interested, but factional divisions soon interfered with the progress of the society, and after the second election of officers, in April, 1851, a quorum could not be gotten together. Nevertheless Drs. Davis, Blaney, Boone, Herrick, Evans and a few others, held stated "meetings" which one writer called "pathological sociables," since in the absence of a quorum no business could be transacted. But presently the interest in the society began to increase and it had reached a state of considerable prosperity when the fire of 1871 scattered the membership and drove all thoughts of scientific matters from their minds. But Dr. Davis invited such of the members as he could reach to meet at his house on Wabash avenue, which they did, until the ruins of the old court house became tenable, when the meetings were transferred to that gloomy old structure. The present writer well remembers those meetings, and the members, long since gone to their reward, whatever it may be. Dr. Davis was almost invariably present, and, no matter what the subject under discussion might be, he was sure to be an active and very interesting participant.

The Chicago Medical Society is now a strong and influential organization, and its members remember with pride that Dr. N. S. Davis was one of its founders. Of course he filled all its offices, and no member was more prominent in its councils.

The Illinois State Medical Society was organized June 3, 1851, at Peoria, being the outcome of a convention held at Springfield June 4th, 1850, and Dr. Davis was one of its charter members. He served as Secretary for ten consecutive years, and his colleagues would gladly have elected him for twice that length of time, if he would have consented. In 1856, he was elected President, and he was for many years connected with the society, in some official capacity. He was rarely absent from the annual meetings of the society, read several papers before it, and was an active participant in its discussions, both ethical and scientific. His membership in the society only terminated with his life. It is interesting to notice

*Since the above was written, I have found the following memorandum in Dr. Davis' handwriting, on one of his prescription blanks: "Ch. Med. Society organized in the spring of 1850—changed its name to Cook Co. Medical Society in 1852—and changed it back to Chicago Medical Society in 1858."—I. N. D.

that his "Presidential Address" was entitled, "What Influences are Alcoholic Liquids Capable of Exerting, Either in Preventing or Curing Tubercular Disease of the Lungs?" It is needless to add that "alcoholic liquids" received scant courtesy at the hands of this apostle of temperance as remedies for "tubercular disease of the lungs" or anything else.

In the year 1854, Dr. Davis was Treasurer of the society.

On the 23d of April, 1869, the "State Microscopical Society of Illinois" was organized under a charter from the Legislature of the State of Illinois and we find the name of "Nathan S. Davis, M. D.," among the charter members. On the 7th of May following, the "Council" was chosen, and Dr. Davis' name appears as a member of this body. On the 14th of the following January he presented a paper to the society on the "Trichina Spiralis," a subject of considerable rarity at that time, and one that was often confounding the diagnoses of practitioners, particularly of the western cities. It is interesting to find that Dr. Davis, although not a practical microscopist, was a charter member of the State Microscopical Society, anl that among the first papers presented was one by himself on a then mysterious and much dreaded disease.

The State Microscopical Society of Illinois had a brief but very brilliant career. The society's annual "Conversazione" was one of the events of the season, and the display of microscopes and microscopic objects was more gorgeous than scientific. But it had its day, and Dr. Davis was one of its patrons.

The Chicago Historical Society was organized April 24th, 1856. We find Dr. Davis catalogued as one of the original promoters and one of its first, as well as one of its most active, members. On the 7th of February, 1857, the Chicago Historical Society assumed a legal existence under an act of incorporation, and Dr. Davis was one of the incorporators. The society had its infantile troubles, but it also had its heroes. "The devoted services of its friends managed, in the first fifteen years of its life, to accumulate a mass of historical treasure. There were some 20,000 volumes, 1,738 files of early newspapers, 4,689 manuscripts (including the entire Kinzie collection) and last, but not least, the original draft of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation! These call a glow to the heart, only to be followed by a spasm of pain, for every vestige of them all, was destroyed in the great fire of 1871. After this disaster many friends sent boxes of books addressed to the society, which were stored, awaiting some movement for rehabilitation; and again in the fire of July, 1874, these, too, were burned."* Yet in spite of these disasters the Chicago Historical Society now occupies its own spacious and beautiful granite edifice, at the corner of Dearborn avenue and Ontario street, and on its wall hangs the picture of N. S. Davis, one of its founders and most unfaltering supporters.

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*"*The Story of Chicago,*" J. Kirkland, p. 343.

It is pleasant to notice among Dr. Davis' colleagues in the Historical Society the name of that genial gentleman, accomplished scholar, and devoted patriot, Dr. James Van Zandt Blaney, a much respected practitioner of those days.

In 1857, the "Chicago Relief and Aid Society" was organized, and of course Dr. N. S. Davis was among its charter members, for it was an institution whose function it was to dispense relief and aid to the worthy sick and poor. The good this society has done during the half century of its existence cannot be computed in cold figures, or stated in human language. During the year and a half following the great fire (1871), it dispensed in pure charity and relief work, the enormous sum of $8,923,400, and no whisper of "graft" was ever heard. Dr. Davis was closely associated with this beneficent work, as was also his close friend and colleague, the late Dr. Hosmer A. Johnson, for many years one of the most eminent and most beloved physicians of Chicago.

The Chicago Academy of Sciences was founded in 1859, with Dr. Davis as one of its charter members. This institution suffered a total loss of its library and collection of specimens in the conflagration of 1871. It now possesses a noble building, the "Matthew Laflin Memorial," in Lincoln Park, and a fine collection of objects of scientific interest as well as an extensive and valuable library. For many years Dr. Davis gave the Academy his active support, and his name holds an honorable place among its founders and early patrons.

Among the professors in the "College of Physicians and Surgeons of Western New York," where Dr. Davis took his degree of Doctor of Medicine, was the late Theodore Romeyn Beck, "Professor of Medical Jurisprudence," a man who was justly eminent by reason of his knowledge of Forensic Medicine, and who was also a highly gifted lecturer and teacher. His lectures had a peculiar charm for young Davis, and aroused in him a love for the study of the relations of law and medicine which lasted through his entire life. Hence it is with no surprise that we find him an active participant in the organization of the Union College of Law, which began its career in 1859, as the law department of the (then) University of Chicago and Northwestern University; hence the name, "Union College of Law." After the unfortunate demise of the original University of Chicago the law school became the law department of Northwestern University, and such it still remains. Dr. Davis was "Professor of Medical Jurisprudence" for many years, and his lectures were highly commended by the students and they are still gratefully remembered by the same students, in their more mature years.* His lectures in the law school were

*Vide Chapter XVII.

generally given in the evening, after an arduous day, prescribing for patients in his office, visiting patients at their homes, making rounds at the hospital, and, many times, after lecturing at the medical school; and it was a constant wonder to the law students, how this hard-working, strenuous man, could come, fresh and virile, after ten or twelve hours' continuous work, and deliver lectures hardly germane to the practice of medicine, so learned and interesting.

The Davis Free Dispensary was incorporated May 15, 1873, by Drs. Davis, Johnson, Hollister, Nelson and Andrews, all of whom were professors in the Chicago Medical College.

Its purpose was twofold: First, to supply skilled medical and surgical services to the worthy poor, and secondly, to act as a "feeder" to the clinics of the college. It was most appropriately named after Dr. N. S. Davis, and was largely another offshoot of his creative genius, but after a couple of years its name was changed to the South Side Dispensary, under which name it still exists, and carries on an extensive and varied clinical work.*

In addition to the enterprises and organizations already mentioned, Dr. Davis was so active and influential in the founding of the *American Medical Association,* that he has been called its "Father," and the honor is by no means undeserved; and his agency in upbuilding and maintaining the Washingtonian Home, in Chicago, was no less important and fruitful, but these are matters of such moment that each will demand a more extended notice than can be given in the present chapter. It must be apparent to every one who is conversant with the facts, that Dr. Davis' genius for creating and organizing new enterprises was something akin to the marvellous, especially when we consider the variety of the organizations, and their utter want of a common bond of union. In his medical and hospital work he was most ably assisted and supported by Drs. Hosmer A. Johnson, William H. Byford, Edmund Andrews, Ralph N. Isham, and especially by his honored and well-beloved colleague, Dr. John Hamilcar Hollister, the last survivor of that noble and eminent galaxy of men, to whom the cause of higher medical education owes so much.

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*For much of the information contained in Chap. V, the author is indebted to *Andren's History of Chicago,* Vol. II.

CHAPTER VI.

Relations to the American Medical Association.

Dr. N. S. Davis has, with great justice and propriety, been called the *"Father of the American Medical Association."* This association, now so powerful and effective for good, was the outgrowth of a concerted effort on the part of the various medical colleges and the various medical societies of the United States, primarily for the purpose of elevating the standard of medical education, which had fallen so low that the high-minded men of the profession looked upon the situation with grave alarm. But Dr. Davis did not originate the first movement in this direction, although he did originate the first movement that bore fruit. It should be said at the outstart that the medical schools, with perhaps a single authenticated exception, either opposed the proposal to form a national organization, or "damned it with the faint praise" of indifference and apathy. The "single exception" seems to have been the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia, which in 1835, "formally proposed the holding of a convention of delegates from all the medical colleges of the Union, and advocated the same through the columns of the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal.*"* According to the *New York State Journal of Medicine* for May, 1907, which journal quotes from the *"New Jersey Medical Reporter,* Vol. vii (date and page not given), "the first movement of which we have any record, which contemplated a convention of delegates, not only from all the medical colleges, but also from the regularly organized medical societies throughout the whole country, was made in the Medical Society of the State of New York at its annual session in February, 1839. During the same session the subject of medical education had been a prominent topic of discussion; and a resolution, declaring that the business of teaching should be separated as far as possible from the privilege of granting diplomas, had been adopted by a large majority. It was in view of this discussion that Dr. John McCall, of Utica, offered the following preamble and resolution, viz: 'Whereas, A National Medical Convention would advance, in the apprehension of this Society, the cause of the medical profession throughout our land, in thus affording an interchange of views and sentiments on the most interesting of all subjects—that involv-

N. Y. State Jour. Med., May, 1907, p. 199.

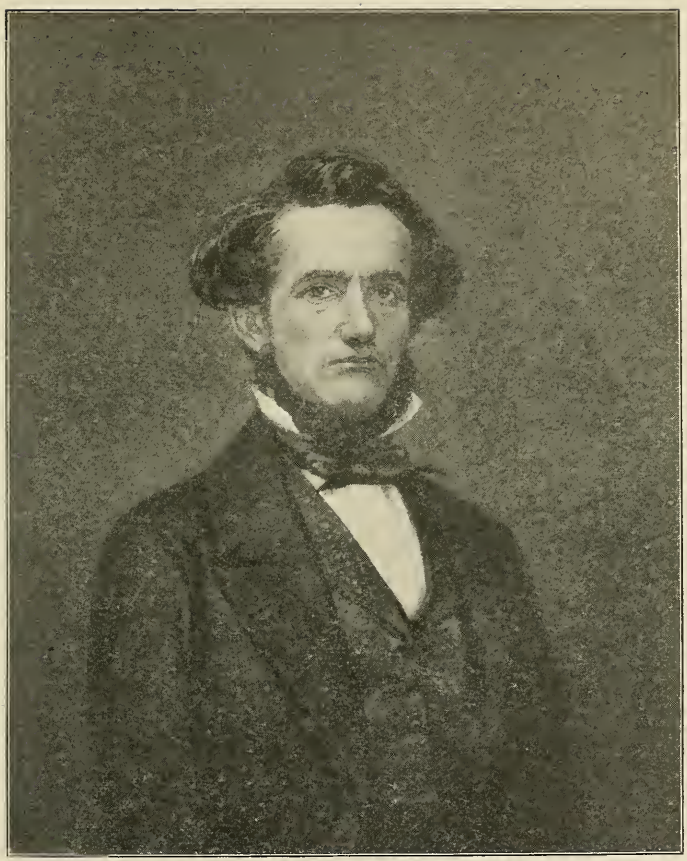
ing men's health, and the means of securing or recovering the same; therefore:

"'Resolved, That in our opinion such convention is deemed advisable and important; and we would hence recommend that it be held in the year 1840, on the first Tuesday in May of that year, in the city of Philadelphia; and that it consist of three delegates from each State Medical Society, and one from each regularly constituted medical school in the United States, and that the president and secretary of this Society be and they are hereby instructed and required to transmit, as soon as may be, a circular to that effect to each State Medical Society and medical school in said United States.'

"This proposition was adopted, and all the necessary steps taken by the Society of the State of New York for carrying it into effect. But neither the societies nor the schools of other states, not even those of Philadelphia, where the proposed convention was to be held, responded to the invitation, and consequently no meeting took place."*

Thus the first attempt to call a National Convention of delegates from the various state societies and medical schools of the country was a dismal failure, because the spirit of commercialism was the dominant spirit in the medical schools, and because the man of iron who was destined to carry the scheme of a convention to a successful issue had not arrived upon the scene. But by this time the subject of medical education had aroused an active interest in many of the medical societies throughout the country, and the faculties of the medical colleges generally had come to realize that the demand for higher medical education could not be postponed or ignored much longer. At the annual meeting of the New York State Medical Society in 1844 attention was strongly directed to the subject of medical education, and the necessity of a higher standard of qualification, both preliminary and medical, by two series of resolutions; one by Dr. Alexander Thompson of Cayuga County, and the other by Dr. N. S. Davis, "then a new delegate from Broome County, N. Y." These resolutions declared a four-months' college term too short for an adequate course of lectures on all branches of medical science, and that the preliminary requirements in the way of general education were altogether too low. After considerable discussion the whole matter was referred to the standing "Committee of Correspondence" with instructions to report at the next annual meeting, and in the meantime to address circulars to the several county societies, asking their views on the same subject. At the next annual meeting of the State Society (in 1845), two reports were made; one by Dr. Davis, as chairman of the "Committee of Correspondence," zealously advocating reform; the

* *Ibid*, p. 200.



DR. N. S. DAVIS AT THE AGE OF 38.

This likeness is a reproduction of the Frontispiece to his *History of the American Medical Association*, published in 1855.

other a minority report by Dr. M. H. Cash, of Orange County, taking a radically opposite view of the subject. These reports led to a lengthy and vigorous discussion of the whole subject of medical education, which developed the fact that the medical schools of New York were very much afraid of any advance movement, because it would drive students to the neighboring schools of Philadelphia and other cities in other states. For the purpose of obviating the very natural objection and opposition of the members of the state society who were interested in the New York medical schools, Prof. Alden March, of Albany, suggested to Dr. Davis that he modify his resolutions so as to embrace all the medical schools of the country; whereupon Dr. Davis at once submitted the following preamble and resolutions:

"*Whereas,* It is believed that a National Convention would be conducive to the elevation of the standard of medical education in the United States; and whereas there is no mode of accomplishing so desirable an object, without concert of action on the part of the medical societies, colleges and institutions of all the states; therefore,

"*Resolved,* That the New York State Medical Society earnestly recommend a National Convention of delegates from medical societies and colleges in the whole Union to convene in the city of New York on the first Tuesday in May, in the year 1846, for the purpose of adopting some concerted action on the subject set forth in the foregoing preamble.

"*Resolved*: That a committee of three be appointed to carry the foregoing resolution into effect."*

This scheme was very generally regarded by the members of the New York State Medical Society as utopian, impracticable and undesirable. Nevertheless, after a brief discussion, the preamble and resolutions were adopted by a large majority, and Drs. N. S. Davis, of Binghamton; John McNaughton and Peter Van Buren, of Albany, were appointed a committee to carry into effect the plan contemplated thereby. Dr. Davis, the virile and determined chairman of the committee, at once entered upon an extensive and laborious correspondence with the various medical societies and colleges of the country, albeit without the aid of a stenographer, type writer, mimeograph, or any of our modern aids in such emergencies. The responses were favorable, almost without exception, and on the first Tuesday of May, 1846, "we were gratified," says Dr. Davis, "with the privilege of meeting in the city of New York, at least one hundred delegates, representing medical societies and colleges in sixteen states of the union, viz: Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia,

**History of Medical Education,* by N. S. Davis, p. 124.

Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois and Tennessee. The general dignity and harmony, the spirit of forbearance and mutual concession, and the noble zeal for the accomplishment of the objects for which it had convened, which characterized the proceedings of this convention, was no less a disappointment to its enemies than an honor to the profession. All the prominent topics connected with medical education were appropriately discussed, and referred to able committees, with instructions to consider and report in full at an adjourned meeting of the convention to be held on the first Wednesday in May, 1847, in the city of Philadelphia."* On the first day of the convention, "Dr. N. S. Davis moved the following, which was adopted:

"*Resolved,* That a committee of nine be appointed to bring the subject of Medical Education before the convention in the form of distinct propositions, suitable for discussion and action, and that it report at the next meeting."

The following gentlemen were appointed: Drs. N. S. Davis, March, Hays, Watson, Brainerd, Stearns, Bush, Haxall and Bell.

On motion of Dr. J. R. Wood, of New York, the president, Dr. Jonathan Knight, was added to the committee.

Dr. Buell offered the following, which was adopted: *Resolved*: That the committee be instructed to receive and submit propositions on all subjects proper to be brought before this convention.**

On the following day (May 6, 1846,) Dr. Davis, as chairman of the foregoing committee, made a somewhat lengthy report, including six resolutions, whereof only the preamble and the first two resolutions concern us in this connection, and they were as follows:

"*Whereas,* It has been shown by experience that the association of persons engaged in the same pursuit, facilitates the attainment of their common objects; therefore,

"*Resolved*: That it is expedient for the medical profession of the United States to institute a National Medical Association for the protection of their interests, for the maintenance of their honor and respectability, for the advancement of their knowledge, and the extension of their usefulness.

"*Resolved*: That a committee of seven be appointed to report a plan of organization for such an association at a meeting to be held in Philadelphia on the first Wednesday in May, 1847."***

The committee of seven, authorized by the second resolution, consisted of Drs. John Watson. John Stearns, T. Campbell Stewart, of New York;

**Op. Cit.*, p. 128.
***Trans. Am. Med. Ass'n.*, I, p. 16.
****Trans. Am. Med. Ass'n.*, Vol. I, p. 17.

A. Stille, Philadelphia; N. S. Davis, Binghamton, N. Y.; W. H. Cogswell, New London, Conn.; E. D. Fenner, New Orleans.

A committee was also appointed to prepare and issue an address to the medical schools and societies which were regularly organized and in good standing, inviting them to send delegates to the adjourned convention at its reassembling in Philadelphia, the following May.

At the end of the second day, and after a most profitable and harmonious session, the convention adjourned, to meet again on the first Wednesday of May, 1847, in Philadelphia.

This convention was an epoch-making event in the medical history of the United States. As Dr. Davis rode back to his country practice in Binghamton did he realize that his efforts had set in motion the machinery that would result in the mighty *American Medical Association* of 1907?

On the fifth of May, 1847, at ten o'clock a. m., pursuant to the plan adopted, the delegates to the National Medical Convention assembled in the hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences, in the city of Philadelphia. They were greeted by Dr. Isaac Hayes, whose words of welcome could not be otherwise than scholarly and appropriate. Eminent men were there; men whose earthly pilgrimage ceased long ago, but whose names are held in loving remembrance. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Alonzo Clark, Edward Elisha Phelps, Amos Twitchell, Josiah Bartlett, Thomas M. Markoe, Jonathan Knight, Valentine Mott, Austin Flint, Alden March, Nathaniel Chapman, George B. Wood; these are a few of the brilliant galaxy of men who graced that auspicious and epoch-making occasion. Of course Nathan Smith Davis was there, and we can easily imagine with what pride and pleasure he looked upon the remarkable gathering that his magic wand had called together. "A nobler spectacle was never presented by the medical profession of any age or country than was witnessed on the assembling of the adjourned convention in 1847,"* says Dr. Davis. About 250 delegates attended the meeting, representing medical societies and colleges in twenty-three states.

A careful reading of the minutes of the convention of 1847, does not show that Dr. Davis was particularly active or influential during its proceedings or debates. We find that "Dr. N. S. Davis, of Binghamton, New York, offered the following resolution, which was ordered to be laid upon the table:

"*Resolved,* That a committee of one from each state represented in this convention be appointed by the President whose duty it shall be to investigate the *Indigenous Medical Botany* of our country; paying particular attention to such plants as are now, or may hereafter during their term of service be found to possess valuable medicinal properties, and are

Davis' History of Medical Education, p. 129.

not already described in the standard works of our country; and report the same in writing, giving not only the botanical and medical description of each, but also the localities where they may be found, to the next annual meeting of the American Medical Association."*

This resolution was afterwards taken from the table, adopted, and a committee appointed, whereof Dr. Davis was chairman. It is interesting to find among the members of that committee the names of Eli Ives, of Connecticut; Jos. Carson, of Pennsylvania; E. E. Phelps, of Vermont; A. Twitchell, of New Hampshire; J. P. Porcher, of South Carolina, and G. Norwood, of Indiana.

The convention appointed the previous year in New York, "to prepare a plan of organization," and of which Dr. Davis was an active and influential member, and in a large sense the *constructive* member, reported an elaborate plan which was adopted and signed by nearly all the members of the convention. The first article reads as follows: "This institution shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of 'The American Medical Association,' and at the evening session, on the last day of the convention, it was

"*Resolved,* That this convention do now resolve itself into the American Medical Association, and that the officers of the convention continue to act as officers of the Association, until others be appointed; which was unanimously adopted."**

Thus on the evening of May the seventh, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, in the city of Philadelphia, the *American Medical Association* sprang into existence, and began its memorable career. It was an act of great historic importance to our profession, and it was peculiarly appropriate and felicitous that it should occur in the "City of Brotherly Love."

If it is possible to imagine that Nathan Smith Davis ever had any feeling of self-congratulation about him, such must have been his state of mind as he wended his way back to the peaceful shades of Binghamton, and resumed his rounds of house to house visitation of the sick and suffering.

**Trans. Am. Med. Ass'n.*, I, 36.
***Op. Cit.*, p. 47.

CHAPTER VII.

Relations to American Medical Association—(Continued).

No other enterprise or organization so captivated and held Dr. Davis' thoughts and efforts as did the *American Medical Association*. From the meeting of the first "National Convention" (of Physicians), in New York, May 5th, 1846, to his death, in 1904, his interest in, and labors in behalf of, the Association never wavered. From the first meeting of the Association proper in 1847 until his last attendance in 1897 I am told that he missed but four meetings, and from these he was kept by causes unavoidable.

At the annual meetings of the Association he was always a power. As a debater it is probably safe to say that he was not only the peer, but the superior of any other member. Whenever he rose to speak, he was sure of the respectful attention of every member present. It was not regarded as desirable to be ranked among his opponents in a debate which aroused his combativeness. In the matter of meekness, he was no rival of Moses, and he never tried very hard to rob Job of his pre-eminence as "the patientest man." His manner was sometimes imperious, and his stock of sarcasm and invective never failed to respond to his demands. But his arguments were solid, logical and generally irrefragable. His diction was not what would be called "elegant," but it was of that terse, condensed and "penetrating" kind that was more effective than the more effusive and oily oratory of the so-called "elegant" speakers.

He nearly always participated in the scientific and secular debates of the Association, and his opinions were always received with unqualified and genuine respect, although they were not always accorded the value which he himself attached to them. He was on various committees at various times, and a most faithful and efficient counsellor he was.

Of course we cannot record here all his sayings and doings at the many meetings of the Association which he attended, but we wish to select and direct attention to a few of the important episodes of which he was the center, or in which he was a prominent actor.

It will be remembered that at the adjourned convention of May, 1847, which "resolved itself into the American Medical Association," there was a committee on "Indigenous Botany" appointed, "under the resolution of Dr. N. S. Davis." At the succeeding meeting, in Baltimore in May, 1848,—"the first annual meeting"—Dr. Davis, as chairman of the committee, pre-

sented a report occupying seventeen pages of the *Transactions,* in which he discussed the medical properties of the "*rumex,* or water dock; the *Lycopus virginicus;* the *Hamamelis virginicus,* and the *Cimicifuga racemosa.*" At the next annual meeting, in Boston, May, 1849, Dr. Davis continued his report, which was supplemented by papers from Dr. S. W. Williams, of Massachusetts, and Dr. F. P. Porcher, of South Carolina, respectively. It was his original design to have this committee continue its work from year to year, with the view of extending the knowledge of the profession as to our indigenous materia medica, a work which had never been undertaken in a systematic and persistent manner. But after presenting his report to the Boston meeting in 1849, he resigned from the committee, and his resignation was accepted.

The session of 1850 was held in Cincinnati. The session does not seem to have been a very eventful one, but in the *"History of the American Medical Association,"* written by Dr. Davis, I read that "the only paper read to the meeting of the Association in Cincinnati, founded on original physiological investigations, was a short one by N. S. Davis, M. D., of Chicago, Illinois. It contained matter of sufficient importance to attract attention, both in this country and in Europe."* Upon turning to the volume of *Transactions* for 1850, we find the only paper presented by Dr. Davis was entitled "Has the Cerebellum any Special Connection with the Sexual Propensity, or Function of Generation?" This paper was a discussion of the different theories as to the function of the cerebellum held by the "phrenologists," and the current authorities on physiology, more especially the opinion of Dr. Wm. B. Carpenter, of London, whose voluminous treatises on physiology were then accorded very high standing. It is altogether likely, therefore, that this paper did "attract attention both in this country and Europe."

The session of 1851 was held at Charleston, S. C. Quite a large number of the members from the northwestern and northeastern cities assembled at New York "and proceeded thence to Charleston by way of the Atlantic," says Dr. Davis, and he adds, "to much the larger number, this was their first trip on the wide ocean, and long will they remember it." The afternoon on which they "dropped quietly down the bay" had been fair and pleasant, and "all on board was life, animation and gayety." The afternoon passed, evening came with its social enjoyment, and in due time, "one after another retired to their staterooms and berths, apparently as quiet and secure as in their private dwellings among their own native hills." It was, however, another case of misplaced confidence in the old Atlantic,

**Hist. Am. Med. Ass'n.,* by N. S. Davis, M. D., 1855. (A series of papers, first published anonymously in the *New Jersey Medical Reporter.* I. N. D.)

especially that part of the Atlantic that cultivates too intimate relations with Cape Hatteras, for, continues Dr. Davis, "midnight comes, and what a change! The rain pours in torrents on the decks, the wind rattles every movable thing on board, while wave after wave breaks in torrents of spray around the ship, giving a mingling of sounds heard nowhere else but on a lone ship tossed upon the wild and boisterous waves. In the meantime, the swaying of the ship rocks the sleepers in their berths like the child in his cradle. But, alas! that rocking soon awakens a large proportion of our doctors, with feelings very much as though they had swallowed half of the ipecac in a respectable drug shop." But our good doctor himself escaped the dreaded *mal-de-mer,* and he adds that "though feeling a cordial sympathy for the sick, yet being entirely exempt myself, it was a *season of peculiar enjoyment.*" The writer hereof can himself testify that there is very much more "peculiar enjoyment" in seeing other people wrestle with sea-sickness than in doing it himself.

But the delegates arrived at Charleston safe and sound, and the session passed off pleasantly and harmoniously. Did any of those delegates realize that in little more than another decade the political volcano over which they stood would break forth with an irruption that would astound the world?

At this session, Dr. Davis read a paper on "An Experimental Inquiry Concerning Some Points Connected with the Processes of Assimilation and Nutrition."

On the evening of the third day the Medical Association of South Carolina gave a "splendid banquet" to their guests, and then and there, "for the first time in the history of the Association, wines and strong drink were freely furnished as a part of the entertainment," says Dr. Davis, evidently to his mortification and disgust.

As a complete catalogue of the numerous papers which Dr. Davis read before the Association may be found in Chapter XII of this memoir, I shall omit them here, but shall content myself with noticing some of the important epochs in the history of the Association in which Dr. Davis played an important part.

At the thirteenth annual meeting of the Association, held in the chapel of Yale College, New Haven, Conn., June 5th, 6th and 7th, 1860, it was voted that the next annual meeting should be held in Chicago in June, 1861, and Dr. Davis was made chairman of the committee of arrangements. But before the time came for making arrangements, the country was convulsed by the outbreak of the civil war, and in accordance with the almost universal sentiment of the profession, the session of 1861 was postponed until the following year. But when June, 1862, came around, the same reason which existed in 1861 now obtained with greatly increased intensity,

with the added reason that a great many of the more prominent members of the Association were in the field with the vast armies which were called into being, both north and south, and so the session for 1862 was abandoned. Those of us who remember those awful times can readily understand that it would have been impossible to call together any considerable number of the profession, and that it would have been a melancholy gathering at best. But before the time for the meeting of 1863 came around a reaction had taken place, and there was a very general unanimity of opinion that the meetings of the Association ought to be resumed, and that they ought not again to be discontinued. Accordingly, the fourteenth session of the *American Medical Association* was held in the old Bryan Hall, Chicago, Ill., June 2, 3 and 4, 1863. Dr. Davis, as chairman of the committee of arrangements, delivered the address of welcome, in the course of which he uttered some denunciations of our erring southern brethren, which looked better in print then than they would now. The meeting was a profitable and harmonious one, and it is interesting to note that an undercurrent of quiet but deep loyalty to their country, and of sorrow for the absence of the southern delegates, was manifest throughout the whole session.

At the session of 1864, held in New York in June, Dr. Davis was elected president, and took his seat on the retirement of Dr. Alden March, of Albany. His conduct as presiding officer gave great satisfaction. He was calm and deliberate, yet prompt and positive in his rulings, and he displayed an intimacy, not only with parliamentary law, but with parliamentary practice, that delighted his friends, and surprised his enemies, of which he was always fortunate enough to have his share.

A change in the organic law of the Association was made—or rather completed—at the New York meeting, which does not concern us here except that one of its immediate effects was that the president of 1864 held over, and presided over the session of 1865, which was held in June in the State House in Boston, overlooking Boston Common, and within "sympathetic" distance of the "Old South Meeting House," the "Old State House," at the head of State street, and the venerable old "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall. The awful civil war was just closing; only a couple of months before the idolized Lincoln had been assassinated; the north was bowed with sorrow, yet hot with indignation; politics ran high, and patriotism was at a white heat; vacant chairs, or crutches, or empty sleeves were everywhere, and the public mind was in that sensitive, hair-trigger state that required only a breath of suspicion to arouse an explosion. Dr. Davis was a democrat; he was at that time little known in New England, except by a few of the more prominent medical men of the larger cities. A cruel, absolutely baseless and absurd rumor

somehow got afloat in New England that he had "southern proclivities," and that the victories of Grant and Sherman gave him no joy or comfort. And there was for a short time preceding the date of the Boston meeting of the Association, a strongly pronounced sentiment that he ought not to be allowed to preside at that meeting. But it was short-lived; local rather than general, and was not countenanced or even tolerated by the prominent and influential New England members of the Association who knew Dr. Davis, and knew the nobility of his character, and the flavor of his loyalty to his country and its institutions. Nevertheless, it must have been a time of sore trial to Dr. Davis, in spite of his calm and unruffled exterior.

But when the hour of meeting arrived, Dr. Davis calmly took possession of the speaker's chair in the hall of the House of Representatives,

Dr. N. S. Davis at the age of 46—from photograph by Fassett, Chicago.

in the Massachusetts State House, called the Association to order without the slightest embarrassment, or tremor of voice or muscle, apparently absolutely oblivious of the fact that a word had been uttered in his dispraise. It was a very dramatic scene, although the chief actor in the drama did not seem to know it. But it was doubtless a great sense of relief to the members of the Association, when they found the wheels of business moving so smoothly, and under the guidance of an associate so well-beloved as Dr. Davis. He won golden opinions for his ability, parliamentary knowledge and fairness, and when, at the close of the session, the customary complimentary vote of thanks was passed, some enthusiast called for "three cheers for Dr. Davis," and they were given with a will. And these cheers were given in Boston, on Beacon Hill, and in the State House. Alas for Boston dignity!

President Davis delivered his "Presidential Address" on the second day, according to custom, and it was a noble effort, abounding in lofty sentiments and high toned patriotism, appropriate to the peculiar but solemn times, and the grand old city, the pride of all Americans. Its closing sentence is so characteristic of the man, and breathes such a noble spirit of altruism that I cannot help quoting it: "Finally let us all remember, not only while transacting the business of this annual session, but also in all the work that is before us in the future, that the great object of a virtuous and happy life is neither worldly honors nor worldly treasures, but an inward consciousness of doing good from day to day." And Dr. Davis practised what he preached.

Obverse face of American Medical Association Medal, struck in 1875; now very rare.

At the eighteenth annual session, in Cincinnati, May, 1867, Dr. Davis made the report of a committee appointed at the session in Baltimore in 1866 to call a convention of teachers in the various medical colleges for the purpose of agreeing upon a uniform scale of preparatory requirements, and a uniform scheme of medical education, to be adopted by medical schools throughout the country. The convention met in Cincinnati, and organized the American Medical College Association, which has done so much towards reforming the lax methods of medical education then in vogue, and which is still in active helpful existence.

At the twenty-fourth annual session held in St. Louis, June, 1873, Dr. Davis brought forward a plan calling for the appointment of a "Judicial Council," which was adopted, and the work of this council has proven salutary and helpful to a large degree.

At the twenty-fifth session held at Detroit, Michigan, June, 1874, Dr. Davis was called upon to respond to the address of the delegates from the Canadian Medical Association, a duty that, it is needless to say, was ably and satisfactorily performed.

At this same Detroit meeting, on motion of Dr. H. F. Askew, of Delaware, it was "Resolved that a suitable die for a medal, with a likeness of Dr. N. S. Davis on one side, and the name and date of the organization on the other side, be procured by this Association, and that hereafter one be furnished to each delegate on becoming a member." The resolution was adopted and "Drs. Toner, Woodward and Keller were appointed a committee to procure the die." On motion it was "Resolved that all

Reverse face of Medal referred to above.

present as well as all future members of the *American Medical Association* be furnished with the medal ordered by the Association."*

At the next meeting, held in Louisville, Ky., May, 1875, Dr. Toner, chairman of the foregoing committee, reported that in accordance with the resolution (quoted above), "they have procured an excellent die with a faithful likeness, as directed. * * * It will be remembered by the members of the Association that the resolution passed at the last session of this body, provided that hereafter a copy of the medal should be furnished to each delegate on becoming a member. On corresponding with the treasurer, however, it was found that, in his opinion, the resolution was not so worded as to authorize any expenditure of money for any other pur-

**Transactions,* Vol. 25, p. 47.

pose than to procure a die."* So the project of furnishing delegates "who became members" fell through "on a technicality," as the lawyers say. But the Association gravely accepted the report, which proved almost a death-warrant to the die, since the hyper-legal mind of the treasurer had evolved a "decision" only a little less astute than that of Portia in the *Merchant of Venice.*

A few copies of the medal were sold at a dollar and twelve cents each, but the great majority of the present members of the Association probably never heard of it, and therefore we have thought best to reproduce it in the exact size of a copy of the medal which Mrs. Davis has kindly furnished. It is a matter of regret that this laudable scheme was nipped in the bud so early and so needlessly, and it is to be hoped that the Association will yet make some arrangement to furnish copies of the medal to its members.

The idea of establishing a weekly journal, as the official organ of the *American Medical Association,* just as the *British Medical Journal* is the organ of the British Medical Association, seems to have been first suggested by the late Dr. S. D. Gross, of Philadelphia, at the annual meeting of 1870; it was again advocated in 1872, by Dr. Theophilus Parvin, and again in 1879 by Dr. Stanford E. Chaillí, of New Orleans. At the session of 1880 Dr. Foster Pratt once more brought the matter before the Association, but without any positive results. At the following session (1881) Dr. John H. Packard, of Philadelphia, moved the appointment of a committee to investigate the subject and report at the next meeting; said committee was appointed and reported favorably the following year (at the session held in St. Paul, Minn., June, 1882), whereupon Dr. N. S. Davis offered resolutions authorizing and ordering the establishment of a weekly journal, to take the place of the annual volume of *"Transactions,"* which had become too ponderous for convenience, and was too tardy to answer the demands of the present generation. The resolutions were adopted, Dr. Davis was chosen editor by the trustees, and the first number of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* appeared on the 14th day of July, 1883.

Dr. Davis held the position of editor until December 31, 1888, when he insisted upon being relieved, as even his iron constitution was beginning to feel the burden of three score and ten years. But under his experienced and judicious management, the *Journal* reached the point where it was no longer an experiment or a stranger in the journalistic world, and he felt that his services could be spared. He lived to see the *Journal of the American Medical Association* one of the strongest, most generously patronized and most influential medical journals in the world.

**Transactions,* Vol. 26, p. 35.

At the forty-first session of the Association at Nashville, Tenn., May 2, 1890, Dr. Davis delivered the "Address on Medicine."

The session of 1881, at Richmond, seems to have been deeply stirred by a proposed amendment to the "Code of Ethics," a subject which was always sure to call forth some lively forensic tilts, and which was pretty certain to arouse Dr. Davis, and put him on his mettle. But this particular occasion seems to have called forth his best efforts, although there is no report of his speech in the *Transactions,* and I have not been fortunate enough to find a record of it in any of the contemporary medical periodicals in our libraries.* But the following letter, which I copy without any change, seems to indicate that Dr. Davis' "oration" must have been a very powerful and telling one, although Dr. Linthicum appears to have made a verbal error when he speaks of the "amendment to the constitution," which, according to the official report in the *Transactions,* was an amendment to the code of ethics. Following is Dr. Linthicum's letter:

HELENA, ARK., May 27, 1881.

N. S. DAVIS, M. D.:

My Dear Sir:—I am at home, and all the excitement of my trip, and the late business of the "American Medical Association" is over; and I can think and reason dispassionately with myself.

After mature deliberation and reflection, I am more and more of the opinion that I formed, during the delivery and at the close of your oration, in defense of the honor of your profession, that it was the ablest effort of your life, one that I have never heard equalled, and I have heard Clay and Webster in their palmy days. In honoring your profession, you have glorified yourself and inscribed your name in golden letters in the topmost niche of the "Temple of Fame." My great regret, and that of very many others who listened to your defense of your amendment to the constitution of the A. M. A. at Richmond, Va., was the probability that we would never see it in print, and that it would be lost to the profession and the world, as there was no stenographer present. I now write to urge upon you the importance of your leaving it in manuscript among your papers, that it may live after you, for the benefit of generations that are coming on and yet unborn. The literature of our profession cannot afford to lose so precious a gem. I am no flatterer or toady, and I write in no such sense, but in the interest of a profession that I love and cherish. Can't you do it?**

Very Sincerely Yours,

D. A. LINTHICUM.

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*A few memoranda on a prescription blank were the speaker's sole "manuscript."

**If Dr. Davis left any such manuscript, it has been lost.

As Dr. Davis had for an opponent the late Prof. E. S. Dunster, of Ann Arbor, Mich., one of the most effective speakers on the floor of the Association, it is quite certain that the members of the Association heard some fine speeches and some keen debating.

In the *Journal* of March 10th, 1891, we find a letter from Dr. Davis calling for a meeting of physicians who were interested in the promotion of temperance, to meet at the approaching session of the Medical Association in Washington, for the purpose of forming the "American Medical Temperance Society." This meeting took place at the time designated, and was well attended; the "society" was organized, Dr. Davis was elected its first President, and the organization is still doing excellent work—another legacy from this many-sided man, to his surviving confreres.

CHAPTER VIII.

Connection with the Ninth International Medical Congress.

The "Ninth International Medical Congress," composed of men eminent in all departments of medicine and cognate sciences from all over the world, assembled in Albaugh's Theater in the city of Washington, D. C., on the 5th of September, 1887, and continued in session until and including the 10th inst. After a brief and very characteristic speech of welcome from President Grover Cleveland, the chairman of the Executive Committee, Professor Henry Hollingsworth Smith, said: "It is now my duty to present for your approval the names of the officers of the Congress agreed upon by the Executive Committee. For the high office of President of the Congress, the committee unanimously nominate to you one widely known as a scientific practitioner, an able teacher and medical author, Dr. Nathan Smith Davis, of Chicago. All approving this nomination will say 'aye.' "* The motion was carried with applause. But Dr. Davis was not the original choice of the Committee on Preliminary Organization for President of the Congress, and it therefore becomes necessary for us to consult history and enter into some explanations.

At the annual meeting of the *American Medical Association,* held in Washington in the spring of 1884, the President, Dr. Austin Flint, in his annual address recommended the appointment of a committee to report upon the propriety of extending an invitation to the International Medical Congress of 1887 to meet in this country. Following this suggestion, a Committee of Invitation was appointed, whereof Dr. Flint, President of the Association, was chairman. This committee proceeded to Copenhagen, where the International Medical Congress of 1884 met, and formally invited the Congress to meet in Washington in 1887. The invitation was accepted, and the committee returned home. But the resolutions under which the committee was appointed, also authorized said committee to add to its members, and act as a Committee of Arrangements for effecting a preliminary organization** of the proposed Congress, provided the invitation was accepted. The committee accordingly met, increased its number from eight to twenty-five, and at this or subsequent meetings or by

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**Transactions, 2.*

***Hence sometimes called "Committee on Preliminary Organization."*

correspondence, made arrangements for the preliminary organization of the Congress, prior to the meeting of the *American Medical Association* in New Orleans in April, 1885.

At this meeting, Dr. J. S. Billings, the Secretary-General of the committee, made a report, embodying the doings of the committee up to that date. The report was severely criticised on the ground; (1) that the committee had awarded pretty much all the chief offices of the Congress to its own members; (2) that it had centred an unduly large proportion of the officers of sections in two or three cities, to the exclusion of the rest of the country; and (3) that it had given an undue prominence to a portion of the profession in New York, which was well known to have arrayed itself in opposition to the State and National organizations of the profession generally. A vigorous discussion ensued, which resulted in the addition to the original committee of eight, of one member from each State and Territory, one from the District of Columbia, and one each from the Army, Navy and Marine Hospital Departments, making in all a committee of 45 members, exclusive of the fifteen members added by the original committee at its first meeting, who were dropped.

This action gave some color of validity to the objections urged against the doings of the committee as above noted.

The new committee met in Chicago, June 24th, 1885, organized, and transacted some business including the substitution of other names for officers, in place of those nominated by the first committee, who had repudiated the Code of Ethics. This laid bare an old sore, and trouble began at once. Five members of the committee, who had been members of the original committee, resigned, and this caused much embarrassment, as it made it difficult to assemble a quorum; a few members of the profession —from 15 to 30—in the cities of Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and Baltimore, met and decided to have no connection with the Congress, or with making any arrangements for its entertainment. And then commenced a long, weary and acrimonious controversy conducted mainly in the *Medical Times,* of Philadelphia, the *Medical Record* and the *New York Medical Journal,* of New York, on one side, and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on the other, which lasted pretty much through the year 1885. Other journals in the United States, and a few in Europe gave some languid attention to the matter, but those above-mentioned threw most of the hot shot.

But the matters involved in the controversy have long ago ceased to be vital, and we may therefore pass them in silence, albeit had it not been for a few level-headed men, the International Medical Congress of 1887 would have been a failure.

The Committee of Arrangements met in New York City, September 3, 1885, for the transaction of necessary business, including the nomination of candidates for officers of the Congress. The committee reported as follows: For President, Austin Flint, M. D., LL. D., New York; for Secretary-General, Nathan S. Davis, M. D., LL. D., Illinois, besides Presidents of Sections and other officers.

Having completed their business, the committee adjourned subject to call, having, as they believed, nearly completed the preliminary plans for the organization of the approaching Congress.

But human plans are not infallible, and human foresight is limited by a very restricted horizon; another heavy blow was lying in wait for the International Medical Congress of 1887. Dr. Austin Flint, the prospective President of the Congress, was suddenly stricken with cerebral hemorrhage and died March 13, 1886. Dr. Flint stood in the forefront of the medical profession, not only of this country, but of the world, and his loss was felt accordingly. Of course the question as to who should fill the place of President of the approaching Congress, made vacant by the death of Dr. Flint, became at once acute and pressing.

There must have been some interesting discussions at the sessions of the "Committee of Arrangements,"* and some private exchanges of opinion among the members thereof, but they do not appear to have been overheard. Dr. Davis was to be Secretary-General, and thus would be in the line of "promotion," which may have been a make-weight. But as a presiding officer and parliamentarian, he had already been tried, and there was no question as to his ability in those particulars. Again his age and unquestionable position of prominence—not to say eminence—in the medical profession of the United States, made his candidacy almost a foregone conclusion. On the other hand, he was the most prominent member of the *American Medical Association,* was an uncompromisingly "orthodox" supporter of the "Code of Ethics," was editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association and was aggressively severe in his editorials on the conduct of the few recalcitrants—eminent though they were—who were out of sorts with the Association and its attempts to manage the Congress. And the old "Ethical" ulcer of several years prior, which was an especially touchy subject to some of the New York men—and men whose names always did and always will command the deepest respect of their professional *confreres*—broke out again, and aggravated and embittered the journalistic controversy.

Nevertheless, at the 37th Annual Meeting of the *American Medical Association,* held at St. Louis, Mo., May 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, 1886, Dr.

*Called also "Committee on Preliminary Organization."

J. S. Lynch, of Baltimore, chairman of Committee on Preliminary Organization, presented the name of "Nathan Smith Davis, M. D., LL. D., of Illinois," as the nominee of the *American Medical Association,* for President of the Ninth International Medical Congress. At the same time, he presented the name of John B. Hamilton, of Washington, D. C., as the candidate for Secretary-General in place of Dr. Davis, together with various other names for various other offices connected with the Congress. The recommendations were adopted, whereupon in order to "clinch things," Dr. Henry H. Smith, of Philadelphia, made a motion to "reconsider," which upon motion of Dr. A. L. Gihon, was laid on table. Meantime, the feelings of discord—which were largely due to misunderstanding—began to die away, the peppery editorials and other communications in the journals ceased, a wave of reaction came, and there was a "great calm."

At a meeting of the New York County Medical Association, Feby. 21st, 1887, the President, Dr. John Shrady, said: "Our Medical Republic is now at peace, and we are amply able to receive visitors from abroad, and render their stay agreeable as well as perhaps profitable." And this speedily became the sentiment of the profession throughout the country, to the great relief of those who were immediately concerned in the management of the Congress.

On the first day's session of the Congress, President Davis delivered his inaugural address, and as he was the first American President of an International Medical Congress, we think the event warrants the reproduction of the address in its entirety. It is as follows:

* * * * * * *

Gentlemen:

It is my first sad duty to remind you that death has removed from among us one to whom, more than to any other, we are indebted for the privilege of having the Ninth International Medical Congress in America. One whose urbanity, erudition, valuable contributions to medical literature and eminence as a teacher, caused him not only to be universally regarded the most influential leader in all the preparatory work, but also the one unanimously designated to preside over your deliberations on this occasion. That one was the late Professor Austin Flint, of New York, who was taken suddenly from his earthly labors, early in 1886, before the work of preparation for this Congress had been half completed. The true nobility of his private and professional character, his eminent ability as a teacher, and, above all, the extent and value of his contributions to the

literature and art of medicine, had caused him to be known and esteemed by the profession in all countries. And, as you all remember, while the shock of his death was fresh upon us, our loss seemed well-nigh irreparable. But, though he has taken his departure ripe in years and full of honors, yet the influence of his excellent example and his contributions to medical science remain, and will continue to exert their beneficent influence through all the generations to come.

With a full consciousness of my own deficiencies and still with a heart over-flowing with gratitude, I thank you for the honor you have bestowed in selecting me to preside over the deliberations of this great and learned assembly. It is an honor that I appreciate as second to no other of a temporal nature because it has been bestowed, neither by conquest nor hereditary influence, nor yet by partisan strife, but by the free expression of your own choice.

Addressing myself now more directly to those here assembled, who have left home and loved ones in other lands and encountered the fatigue and dangers of traveling by sea and by land, in the name of the Medical Profession of this country I welcome you, not only to this beautiful city and the hospitality of its citizens, as has been so admirably done already by the honorable representative of the Government who has just taken his seat, but I cordially welcome you to the whole country in whose name you were invited here three years since, and whose representatives are now here, side by side with you, gathered from the East, the West, the North, the South, as well as from the rugged mountains and fertile valleys of the center, to make good the promise implied by that invitation.

If they do not cause you to feel at home and happy, not only in the social circles and halls devoted to the advancement of science, literature and art in this city of our nation's pride, but wherever you may choose to roam, from the rocky coast of New England on the Atlantic to the Golden Gate of the Pacific, it will be from no want of earnest disposition to do so.

And now, I not only thus welcome you from other lands, but I take great pleasure in greeting you one and all as leading representatives of a profession whose paramount object is the lessening of human suffering, by preventing, alleviating, or curing diseases wherever found, and in whatever class or grade of the human family. Nay, more, with profound reverence I greet you as a noble brotherhood, who in the practical pursuit of that one

grand object, recognize no distinction of country, race or creed, but bind up the wounds and assuage the pains of the rich and poor, ruler and ruled, Christian and pagan, friend and foe alike.

Not that every medical man does not love and defend his own country and fireside with as fervid a patriotism as the members of any other class of men. But as disease and pain are limited to no class or country, so is the application of his beneficent art limited only by the number of those suffering within his reach.

With a common object so beneficent in its nature, and opportunities for its practical pursuit so universal, it is but natural that you should be found searching for the most effectual means for the accomplishment of the one object of lessening human suffering, in every field of nature and every department of human knowledge.

The living human body—the chief object of your solicitude, not only combines in itself the greatest number of elementary substances and the most numerous organs and varied functions, so attuned to harmonious action as to illustrate the operation of every law of physics, every known force in nature, and every step in the development of living matter, from the simple aggregation of protoplasm constituting the germinal cell to the full-grown man, but it is placed in appreciable and important relations with the material and immaterial forces existing in the world in which he lives.

Hence a complete study of the living man, in health and disease, involves a thorough study, not only of his structure and functions, but more or less of every element and force entering into the earth, the air and the water with which he stands in constant relation.

The Medical Science of to-day, therefore, embraces not only a knowledge of the living man, but also of such facts, principles and materials gathered from every other department of human knowledge as may increase your resources for preventing or alleviating his suffering or prolonging his life.

The time has been, when medical studies embraced little else than the fanciful theories and arbitrary dogmas of a few leading minds, each of which became for the time the founder of a sect or so-called school of medicine, with his disciples more or less numerous. But with the development of general and analytical chemistry, of the several departments of nature science, of a more practical knowledge of physics, and the

adoption of inductive processes of reasoning, the age of theoretical dogmas and of medical sects blindly following some more plausible leader passed away, leaving but an infinitesimal shadow yet visible on the medical horizon.

So true is this, that in casting our mental vision, to-day, over the broad domain of medicine we see its votaries engaged, some searching for new facts and new materials; some studying new applications and better uses of facts and materials already known; some of them are in the dead house with the scalpel and microscope, not only studying the position and relations of every part, from the obvious bones and muscles to the smallest leucocyte, in health; but also every deviation caused by morbid action or disease. Some are searching the fields, the forests, the earth and the air, both for knowledge concerning the causes of disease and for additional remedial agents; some are in laboratories with crucible, test glass and microscope, analyzing every morbid product and every remedial agent, separating the active principles from the crude materials and demonstrating their action on living animals, while far the greater number are at the bedside of the sick and wounded, applying the knowledge gained by all other workers to the relief of human suffering. A more active, earnest, ceaseless and beneficent field of labor is not open to your vision in any other direction or occupied by any other profession or class of men. And thus has the Science of Medicine become a vast aggregation of observed facts, many of them so related to each other as to permit practical deductions of permanent value, while many others remain isolated through incompleteness of investigations, and therefore liable to prompt, hasty or even erroneous conclusions.

Indeed, the most defective and embarrassing feature in the science and art of medicine, at this time, is the rapid accumulation of facts furnished by the vast number of individual workers, each pushing investigations in some special direction without concert with his fellows, and without any adequate conception of the coincident lines of observation necessary to enable him to see the true bearing of the facts he evolves. Hence he is constantly mistaking mere coincidences for the relation of cause and effect, and the pages of our medical literature are being filled with hastily formed conclusions and rules of practice from inadequate data.

This results, in part at least, from the extent and variety of the fields of inquiry and the complexity of the problems pre-

sented for solution. For nowhere else within the realms of human thought does the mind encounter problems requiring for their correct solution the consideration of a greater number of data, than in the study of etiology and pathology. To determine the appreciable conditions of the earth, air and water of any country before, during and after invasion of an epidemic disease long enough to include several consecutive visits of the same, is not possible for a single individual, nor for any number of observers acting separately or without concert.

Yet just this complete knowledge is necessary to enable us to separate the conditions that are merely coincident or accidental from those that are such constant accompaniments of the disease as to prove a necessary relation between them. And it is only by such persistent coincident, systematic observations of many individuals, each having a definite part, and the results carefully compared analytically and synthetically at proper intervals, that the real conditions and laws controlling the prevalence and severity of epidemics can be clearly demonstrated. It is not enough to discover the primary infection, or the contagium vivum, whether it be the bacillus of cholera, yellow fever, or tuberculosis, for abundant experience has shown that not one of these will extend its ravages into any community or country unless it finds there a soil or pabulum congenial for its support and propagation.

It is on the development and diffusion of knowledge concerning the local conditions necessary for receiving and propagating the specific infections of disease that nearly all the important sanitary measures of modern times have been based. And it is on a further development of knowledge in the same direction, gained by more systematic, continuous and coincident investigation, that we shall most successfully protect our race from the pestilences that have hitherto "walked in darkness and wasted at noonday."

It was an extensive and ever extending field of medical science, the complexity of the problems pressing for solution, and still more the individual responsibility of applying the resources at command to the direct treatment of disease, that early disposed medical men to seek each other's counsel, to form groups or clubs for comparison of views and mutual improvement. The manifest advantages of these soon prompted more extended social gatherings, until at the present time a large proportion of the more active members of the profession in every

civilized country are participating in municipal, district, National and International medical organizations.

The aggregate benefit derived from all this active intercourse is beyond easy expression in words. In more frequent and familiar comparison of cases and views on all professional subjects in the local societies, closer habits of observation and a wider range of thought are induced, while narrow prejudices and bigotry give place to generous rivalry and personal friendships. In the larger gatherings, the formal preparation of papers and reports on a great variety of subjects impels their authors to a wider range of study and greater mental discipline, while the collision with other minds in discussion brings all aspects of the subject to view, enlarging the scope of mental vision, starting new trains of thought, and begetting a broader and stronger mental grasp with purer and nobler aims in life.

I think I am justified in saying that no other one influence operative in human society during the present century has done as much to develop and diffuse medical knowledge, to stimulate its practical and successful application, both in sanitary measures for preventing disease and in the direct alleviation of suffering at the bedside, and in unifying and ennobling the profession itself, as has been accomplished by the aggregate medical society organizations of the world. Yet their capacity for conferring other and, perhaps, still greater benefits, under proper management, will have become manifest in the near future. And that I may accomplish the chief object of this address, I must ask your indulgence while I indicate some of the more important additional benefits in advancing medical science and saving human life through the instrumentality of our medical organizations, and the methods by which they may be accomplished.

Every experienced and intelligent practitioner of the healing art is familiar with the fact that all acute general diseases are influenced in their prevalence and severity by seasons of the year, topographical and other conditions of the earth, meteorological conditions of the atmosphere, and the social conditions and habits of the people themselves. The most familiar endemics vary annually in the same localities, while the great epidemics that have for ages broken over the comparatively limited boundaries of their habitats only at intervals of years, and extended their ravages from country to country and receded again to the source from which they apparently originated, differ

widely in the different periods of their prevalence. But in studying the essential causes of any one of these general diseases and the laws and conditions under which such cases operate, he soon finds certain factors, essential for the solution of his problems, wanting.

For instance, if he wishes to identify the date of the first attack of epidemic cholera in a given locality and the character of bowel affections immediately preceding, the ordinary statistics of mortality will give him only the date of death, which may have been from one to seven days later, or it may have been preceded by one or more cases that recovered. If he is anxious to determine the reason why the disease, on entering one community, develops with such rapidity that in a few days its victims are found in every grade of the population and in almost every street, while in another it develops slowly, adhering persistently to particular classes or localities, he may find in the ordinary meteorological records the thermometric, barometric and hygrometric conditions of atmosphere, with the direction and the velocity of the winds, but he finds nothing regarding those important though variable elements known as ozone and hydrogen peroxide, active oxidizers; or those nitrogenous products called free and albuminoid ammonia. Neither do the sanitary records give the desired information concerning the composition and impregnations of the soil, or of the organic and inorganic emanations that may arise therefrom.

An adequate knowledge of these absent factors relating to the condition of the earth, air and water over districts large enough to embrace localities subject to invasions of the epidemics and others known to be exempt, through a sufficient length of time to cover several periods of prevalence and periods of absence alike, is essential for enabling us to comprehend the causes that make one district amenable to the prevalence of a disease and another not, as well as the marked differences in the severity and mode of progress of the same disease at different periods in the same localities and same classes of the people. The same additional knowledge would also furnish the basis for further sanitary measures of the greatest practical value.

And yet it must be obvious that the coöperation of numbers of medical men directly engaged in the field of general practice, with others possessed of more practical facilities for chemical and microscopical research, is necessary for successfully prosecuting such coincident and continuous investigations as would

be likely to secure the desired results. Only well-trained general practitioners in every locality chosen for observation could observe and record the date of the initial symptoms of acute general disease coming under their notice, and at stated intervals collate and report them to a central committee. The daily observations concerning the presence and relative proportion of active oxidizers and of nitrogenous organic elements in the atmosphere and the water, would require the selection of one or two experts in chemical and microscopical research for each locality; all making their observations coincidently in time, and by uniform methods.

There are included in the organized medical associations of each country the men and material necessary for prosecuting every well-defined line of inquiry; and these associations, by their stated meetings and their facilities for inter-communication and concert of action, present the entire machinery needed and are only waiting for well planned and systematic use.

The tendency to make the permanent medical organizations available for prosecuting work in the directions I have indicated has already been manifested to a limited extent, as may be seen in the formation of the Collective Investigation Committee of the British Medical Association, and of the International Collective Investigation Committee, organized during the sitting of the Eighth International Congress at Copenhagen.

An earlier movement, more fully of the character I have been endeavoring to explain, was made by the American Medical Association in 1875, when a standing committee was appointed to establish in a sufficient number of localities regular coincident daily observations and records concerning all appreciable meteorological conditions, including organic and inorganic elements found in the atmosphere, and the date of beginning of acute general disease, and report the result at each annual meeting of the Association.

The committee made reports embodying facts of interest and permanent value in 1877, in 1879, in 1881, in 1882, and in 1883. The latter report contains, among other items, a complete tabulated statement of the free and albuminoid ammonia in the atmosphere for every day in the year ending August 31, 1883, as determined for the committee by Prof. J. H. Long in connection with the laboratory of the Chicago Medical College. The committee is still prosecuting its work, with material in hand for a still more important report at an early day. The greatest

difficulty encountered has been to enlist a sufficient number of active practitioners in each locality who would faithfully record the desired clinical facts and report the results to the committee. But this and all other obstacles can be overcome by persevering and well-directed work.

I trust no apology is needed for having embraced this occasion to attract your attention to the very important question of how to make all our Medical Associations more useful in promoting the science of medicine by more complete methods of investigation, especially in directions where the coincident action of several persons in different places is essential for success.

I fully appreciate the great benefit resulting from the simple mingling of a large number of medical men in social contact, where each is made to hear constantly whether on the street, in the hotel or the assembly room, new suggestions, new modes of expression, and to observe the physical and mental effects of the various habits and customs of the different peoples, until each one leaves the general gathering with largely increased mental activity and resources, as was so happily expressed by Sir James Paget in his address to the Congress of 1881, in London. And I appreciate in a still higher degree the benefits derived from the preparation and reading of papers by individuals and the discussion of important questions, in all our assemblies.

But for reasons I have already briefly stated, I hope to see added in every permanent general medical society two standing committees; one to whom should be referred for critical examination every communication claiming to embody a new discovery in either the Science or Art of Medicine; and the other should be charged with the work of devising such lines of investigation for developing additional knowledge as require the coöperation of different individuals, and perhaps societies, and of superintending their efficient execution until crowned with success.

If ten or twenty per cent of the money paid for initiation and membership dues by the members of each society were appropriated and judiciously expended in the prosecution of such systematic and continuous investigations from year to year, it would accomplish more in advancing medical science directly, and indirectly in benefiting the human race, than ten times that amount would accomplish if expended in any other direction.

For it must be remembered that when money is expended for material objects, even for food, clothing or medicine, such materials feed, clothe or relieve but one set of needy individuals, and are themselves consumed; but the expenditure of money and time in such a way as to develop a new fact capable of practical application either in preventing, alleviating or curing disease, that fact does not, like the food or medicine, perish with the using, but it becomes literally imperishable. Neither are its benefits limited to one set of individuals, but it is transmitted with the speed of the lightning, over the land and under the sea, to every civilized people; and whatever benefits it is capable of conferring are as capable of being applied to a million as to one, and being repeated with increasing efficiency from generation to generation.

It has been tersely and correctly stated that associated action constitutes the characteristic and predominating power of the age in which we live.

It is by association that education in its broadest sense, religion and civilization, have been more rapidly diffused among the masses of mankind during the present century, than during any other period of the world's history.

It is by the association of capital, wielded by the associated intellects of the nineteenth century, that highways of commerce have been opened over the valleys, through the mountains, across the deserts, and on the oceans, over some of which the material productions of the nations are borne by the resistless power of steam, and along others the products of mental action are moved with the speed of electric currents, until both time and space are so far nullified that the most distant nations have become neighbors, and the inhabitants hold daily converse with each other from opposite sides of the globe.

Indeed, it is only by means of such of these highways as have been constructed within the memory of him who addresses you, that you have been gathered in this hall from the four quarters of the earth, and through which an account of your doings may be daily transmitted to your most distant homes.

I congratulate you on the fact that the profession you represent has taken the lead of all other professions or classes of men, in rendering available these grand material achievements of the age, for cultivating fraternal relations, developing and interchanging knowledge and planning concerted action for ren-

dering human life everywhere healthier, happier, and of longer duration.

This is the Ninth International Congress in the regular series, within little more than two decades, and let us hope that all its work will not only be done in harmony and good order, but with such results as will add much to the aggregate of human happiness through all the coming generations.

Without trespassing further on your patience, I must ask your forbearance with my own imperfect qualifications, and your generous assistance in the discharge of the responsible duties you have devolved upon me.

The Congress was a success in every particular. The utmost harmony prevailed, and it was altogether an occasion to gratify the pride of every American physician and surgeon. The *London Lancet* of Sept. 25th, 1887, says: "The success of the Ninth International Congress is a matter for thankfulness. The interruption of the series of Congresses would have been little less than a calamity and a disgrace for the profession of all nations." But the *Lancet* writer could not let up without "bleeding" us a little, and so he adds: "They"—the Americans—"have carried through the Congress, and we thank them. There is yet one other service they can do; in any official action that now devolves upon them, to strive to obliterate the last relics of discord, and to stand in the light of truth and charity undimmed and unqualified, to those in Berlin on whom will now rest the burden of responsibility for the next Congress."

In his farewell to the Congress, President Davis closed by saying: "Life with me is not long, but if it is spared with sufficient health, I shall take great satisfaction in meeting my friend Dr. Martin, and all his comrades in Berlin in 1890."

But when 1890 came, the undertaking seemed too great in view of his advancing years, and the foreign members of the Congress of 1887 saw his face no more.

CHAPTER IX.

The "Jubilee" Meeting of the American Medical Association.

The forty-eighth annual meeting of the *American Medical Association* was held in Philadelphia, June 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th, 1897, just fifty years after the Medical Convention, which met in Philadelphia May 5th, 1847, "resolved itself into the American Medical Association." Of course this meeting of June, 1897, should have been the fiftieth annual session, instead of the forty-eighth, but on account of the disturbed state of the country incident to the civil war, the meetings which would otherwise have occurred in 1861 and 1862 were omitted; consequently the *forty-eighth meeting* occurred on *the fiftieth anniversary* of the founding of the Association, an anachronism that is a little confusing, until its cause is understood.

In the Association *Journal* of May 16, 1896, the following editorial note occurs: "The 47th annual meeting of the Association should be marked with a white stone, as one of its *Dies Memorabiles*."

And such it proved to be!

At the 47th annual meeting, held at Atlanta, Ga., May 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1896, Dr. John B. Roberts, Chairman of the Delegation from the Philadelphia County Medical Society, presented the following: "At a meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, held April 15th, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted: Whereas, The American Medical Association completed its organization and commenced its actual existence in the city of Philadelphia, during the first week of May, 1847;

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the chair to publicly urge that the Association celebrate in 1897 its Fiftieth Annual Meeting with ceremonies appropriate to its long and successful career;

"Resolved, That the delegates of the Philadelphia County Medical Society to the meeting of the American Medical Association at Atlanta, be instructed to extend to the Association a cordial invitation to hold its semi-centennial meeting in Philadelphia, the city of its birth."

On motion of Dr. Reed, "the resolutions were referred to the Committee on Nominations," but, so far as the official report of the proceedings show, said committee made no recommendation in the matter. Yet there must have been a "Committee on Anniversary Exercises" appointed at this meeting, inasmuch as Dr. John B. Roberts appears as chairman of such committee, as we shall see presently.

The meeting of the *American Medical Association* which was held in Philadelphia June 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th, 1897, was called the "Jubilee Meeting," and such indeed it was. In more dignified but less inspiring phrase, it was called the "Semi-Centennial," but from start to finish, it was an occasion long to be remembered, and one never to be duplicated. Dr. Nicholas Senn was President, "whose skill"—says the *Journal*—"as a presiding officer was manifest from the first hour." The attendance was the largest in the history of the Association, or as the *Journal* says, "it not only surpassed all previous meetings in number of members present, but in *tout ensemble*." Many of the older men were there, attracted thither by the expectation of a historic and epoch-making meeting! Love, of Missouri; Garcelon, of Maine; Maclean, of Michigan; Holton, of Vermont; Didama, of New York; Marcy, of Massachusetts; Conn, of New Hampshire; Reed, of Ohio; Davis, Hamilton and Graham, of Illinois; Quimby, of New Jersey; Atkinson and Roberts, of Pennsylvania; Reyburn, of the District of Columbia; Sternberg, Surgeon General of the Army, and Gihon, Surgeon General of the Navy; these are only a few of the eminent members of our profession who gathered on that occasion, both to honor it and themselves. Since that meeting, the "Reaper whose name is death" has been busy, and very many of the older men have answered the summons to "go up higher."

The first "General Session" was held on Tuesday, June 1st, in the stately Academy of Music, and was mainly given up to the purely business matters of the Association.

The second "General Session," on Wednesday, June 2d, was made interesting and memorable by the fact that the lamented President of the United States, William McKinley—so soon to complete our noble trio of Martyred Presidents—was there and made one of his short but dignified and characteristic speeches from which I extract the following: "Although summoned to the city for another purpose, I deem myself most fortunate to find this honorable Association in its semi-centennial meeting on the same day. . . . I cannot refrain from pausing a moment that I might come into this brilliant presence, to meet the learned gentlemen here assembled, and to pay my homage to the noble profession which you so worthily represent." The President having retired there were loud calls for Governor Hastings, who delivered an excellent and eloquent address, which was followed by "loud and prolonged applause."

And then the Association settled down to business again, and thus passed into history one of the eventful days in the history of the *American Medical Association*.

But Thursday, June 3d, 1897, was perhaps the most memorable day

in the history of the Association. The "Third General Session" was held on this day, and its chief event can never be duplicated. It was the occasion of the "JUBILEE EXERCISES; FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION," says the official report, in "small caps." The Academy of Music was crowded with a brilliant audience, composed of delegates, prominent members, and other medical men, drawn thither by the unusual importance of the occasion. Many of the laity, comprising the prominent citizens of Philadelphia and other cities were there. A large number of women, mostly wives or relatives of members in attendance, were there, and as one stood on the stage and looked over the vast audience, it was a brilliant and inspiring scene. But in all that great company, there was but one who was present when the Association commenced its existence, fifty years before, and he was the honored guest of the hour. Only four of the original members of the Association were then living, namely, Dr. N. S. Davis, of Illinois, an ex-President; Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Pennsylvania, also an ex-President; Dr. John B. Johnson, of Missouri, an ex-Vice President; and Dr. David F. Atwater, of Massachusetts. Dr. Stillé, although residing in Philadelphia, was not able to be present, and Drs. Johnson and Atwater were also unable to take the long journey to Philadelphia but sent interesting letters, which were read.

"The hour set for the Jubilee Exercises having arrived" Dr. N. S. Davis, the founder of the Association, appeared upon the stage, escorted by the Presidents of the State Medical Societies and the Presidents of State Boards of Medical Examiners. Dr. Davis was presented to President Senn by Dr. John B. Roberts, Chairman of the Committee on Anniversary Exercises, who said:

" 'Some fifty-two years ago, at a meeting of the New York State Medical Society, there appeared for the first time a young delegate from Broome County. Observation during his collegiate course had opened his eyes to the fact that there were radical defects in the methods of medical education. To remedy these evils and to organize the profession of the United States into a professional brotherhood, with a common purpose, a common dignity, a common ethical standard and a common humanity, he determined to use all the vigor which he possessed. It was his desire to separate medical teaching from medical licensing, and to organize the profession in connection with a central medical body. That his labors, despite much opposition, have been crowned with success, is shown by the existence of a Medical Examining Board in nearly every State in the Union, and State Medical Societies in all parts of the country. The presence of these gentlemen who accompany him to-day, and the registration of 2,000 delegates and

members attest the approval given to the efforts of the ever-young man whom I now present to you.' (Applause.)

"At the conclusion of Dr. Roberts' remarks, Dr. Davis arose and was greeted with round after round of applause, which continued for fully three minutes. As soon as quiet was restored, President Senn said:

" 'Dr. Davis, in the name of nine thousand members of the Association I greet you and congratulate you that you have been permitted to live long enough to witness the commemoration exercises of your life work, the fiftieth anniversary of your favorite child—the American Medical Association. May you live long, and when the inevitable comes, find a peaceful end and an ample reward in the life to come.' (Applause.)

"Dr. Davis then delivered his address, selecting for his subject, 'A Brief History of the Origin of the American Medical Association, the Principles on which it was Organized, the Objects it was Designated to Accomplish, and How Far They Have been Attained During the Half Century of its Existence.' "*

And such is the cold and colorless official account of the Jubilee Meeting of the *American Medical Association,* an event of more than passive importance, not only to the medical profession of the United States, but of the civilized world. The Association was half a century old; it had grown from a feeble beginning to a membership of about 9,000; it had exercised an influence for good on medical education, medical legislation and medical progress generally, of incalculable value, an influence which was and is increasing with every passing year. And now, on the third of June, 1897, about two thousand members and delegates, together with a liberal sprinkling of non-professional men and women, had gathered in the self-same city where the Association was born, to celebrate its fiftieth birthday, and to do well merited honor to its venerable and illustrious founder. It was a scene and an event to stir the blood and warm the heart of an anchorite. It was not a meeting of the Judicial Council, or of the Section on State Medicine; it was the *Jubilee Meeting* of the largest medical organization in the world, and its founder was there to rejoice with the numerous membership of the institution of which he had been the *fons et origo,* and the chief inspiration, for these many years.

An editorial touch in the *Journal* of June 12th, following the Jubilee, throws a little color into the picture: "The jubilee exercises were impressive. The venerable founder of the ASSOCIATION, Professor NATHAN S. DAVIS, accompanied by his colleague, Professor ALFRED STILLE,** was es-

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**Journal Am. Med. Ass'n.,* June 12, 1897.

**Dr. John B. Roberts, Chairman of the Committee on Anniversary Exercises, "regretted that Dr. Stille was not present."

corted to the stage between a double line of ex-presidents of the Association, who were standing in open order. The escort consisted of the Presidents of State Medical Societies, and Presidents of State Boards of Examiners. President Senn then welcomed him in a few well-chosen words, the delegates in the hall rose and cheered until they were stilled, when Professor DAVIS delivered the historical reminiscences which we elsewhere publish. No one present will ever forget it. The orator read with his old time earnestness, and with a clear voice that time has scarcely impaired; and the pride and affection that the Association has for our venerable colleague was manifested again, when he closed, by vehement and enthusiastic applause."

As Dr. Davis slowly advanced towards the footlights, between the lines of ex-presidents, what was the drift of his thoughts, and what the nature of his reflections? Certainly he indulged in no vainglorious pride, nor was he possessed by an unseemly egotism; but the feeling of satisfaction and thankfulness that came to him as he contemplated the vast and beneficent result of his work, can be easily imagined by those who knew the man and his great human heart.

As in an early chapter we have recounted the history of the origin of the *American Medical Association* in detail, we omit the jubilee address of Dr. Davis, except its closing paragraph which says that "Every leading object sought to be accomplished by its" (the Association's) "founders has been substantially obtained: That is, universal free and friendly social and professional intercourse has been established; the advancement of medical science and literature in all their relations has been promoted; and the long agitated subject of medical education has reached the solid basis of a fair academic education as preparatory, four years of medical study, attendance on four annual courses of graded medical college instruction, of from six to nine months each, and licenses to practice to be granted only by State Boards of Medical Examiners. The grand citadel of our noble profession has thus been constructed on its legitimate foundations, and it only remains for those who come after us to perfect its several parts, and make them more and more efficient in preventing human suffering and prolonging human life."

On the last day of the memorable session of 1897, Dr. Davis uttered a few last words which will be read with a kind of sad pleasure by those of us who remember and survive him: "I am not quite willing to let this occasion pass without a word. The first convention I went to, to help form the Association, was by the old stage coach, and it took longer to go over the hills of Pennsylvania, in and around the corners of it, to get from the village of Binghamton and the Susquehanna and the Chenango Rivers

to New York City, than it does to go from Chicago to San Francisco. I mention this to show you that the world has progressed. I have followed the meetings of the Association with the utmost interest and with the greatest possible pleasure, from the foot of Bunker Hill Monument to the Golden Gate, and from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, round and round. These meetings, and the meetings of our State Society have been my pleasure excursions; they have been the only vacations I have ever taken." (Applause.) "They are vacations that bring me in touch with my brethren from every quarter, and enable us to stir each other up by thoughts, by contact of mind with mind, man with man, and woman with man if you please." (Applause.) "It gives us an elevation, infuses a buoyancy that lifts us out of our ruts at home. When we return to our homes and resume our practice, we do so with fresh vigor, with greater confidence." (Loud applause.)

At the conclusion of these remarks, three hearty cheers were proposed and given to Dr. Davis and the American Medical Association. And in this happy and jubilant frame of mind, did the speaker—now eighty years old—say *ultima vale* to his lusty offspring, the *American Medical Association.*

CHAPTER X.

Dr. Davis' Temperance Work, Public and Professional.

From his earliest to his last days, Dr. Davis was a total abstainer from all forms of alcoholic beverages. It is a historic fact, which I have upon the excellent authority of Mrs. Davis, who still (August, 1907) survives him, that he never tasted an alcoholic beverage in all his life. During all the years of his long and remarkable career, he was an active worker in the temperance cause, and no one will ever know how many men he saved from that terrible fate, the death of the drunkard. His hatred of alcohol was so intense, that he was often called a "temperance crank," a "fanatic," a "faddist," and various other names which were intended to be opprobious, but were in the highest degree complimentary.

It must be remembered that in Dr. Davis' early days, the use of alcoholic beverages was rather more common than the use of "aqua pura;" nor was it regarded as improper or specially harmful. The minister, the lawyer and the doctor, each took his "toddy," without any idea of its impropriety, and in the country stores, rum was sold as openly as, and rather more frequently than, "lamp oil" or molasses. When the merchant made out his yearly bill against his customers—professional men included—the item "one gallon of rum" occurred about as often as any other item, and the farmer generally needed an extra ten gallons to "get through haying."

It was several years after Dr. Davis had been a married man, or rather boy, and had graduated in medicine and become a legal voter, before the temperance cause had acquired sufficient momentum to be respected or even felt. In those days it took some back-bone for a young man to allow himself to be known as a "teetotaller," as the early temperance advocates were contemptuously called, but our young doctor, standing almost alone, swerved not a hair's breadth from his principle of absolute and uncompromising abstinence.

From the very beginning of his medical practice to his last days, he absolutely prohibited the use of alcohol as a therapeutic agent. And not only that, but he talked against it to his patients, argued against it before various medical societies and in his more public and popular addresses, and wrote against it in medical and secular periodicals far and wide. It would be impossible at this day, to gather all of Dr. Davis' essays and addresses against the use of alcohol in any form, either as a beverage or as a cura-

tive agent, but if this could be done, the collection would be about as formidable an array of anti-alcoholic literature as could be desired. Nor must it be forgotten that as long ago as he began practice, and in fact down to quite recent times, the use of alcohol in medical and surgical practice was not only very common, but its use was, by the majority of physicians, regarded as indispensable. But a change has come over the practitioner of to-day, and the use of alcohol in medical practice is immensely less common than it was a couple of decades ago. It is no more than fair, no more than just, to attribute this change in no small degree, to the ceaseless and persistent hammering of Dr. Davis on his temperance anvil, for a full half-century.

When he came to Chicago in October, 1849, he brought his temperance principles with him, and they certainly seemed to thrive in the uncongenial atmosphere of this then frontier city, with its cloud of frontier vices. Of course he preached temperance to the students of Rush Medical College, and later to the students of Chicago Medical College, and on Christmas, 1854, we find him delivering to the students of Rush College a "Lecture on the Effects of Alcoholic Drinks on the Human System, and the Duties of Medical Men in Relation Thereto." A little later he delivered and published a lecture descriptive of some original experiments in relation to the effects of alcohol on respiration and animal heat.

But probably Dr. Davis' most effective and telling temperance work in Chicago was done during his active connection with the Washingtonian Home of that city. It has been stated again and again that he was "one of the founders" of the institution in question, and this statement comes pretty near being true.

The first movement towards the foundation of the home was due to Mr. Rolla A. Law, a well known Chicagoan of forty years ago, a member and an officer of the "Good Templars" (an aggressive temperance organization) and an uncompromising temperance war horse. On October 1st, 1863, Mr. Law called a meeting of half a dozen well known temperance advocates for the purpose of forming an organization looking to the establishment of a refuge for inebriates, and the adoption of measures for their reformation. Four subsequent meetings were held, a constitution and by-laws were drafted by a committee, and adopted, but according to the records of the Secretary, Dr. Davis was not present at any of these meetings. At a meeting held January 21st, 1864, at the Association's first "Home," 547 State street, Chicago, the first Board of Directors was elected, and Dr. Davis was one of the number. In this instance, as in several other similar instances, I have tried to be accurate about facts and dates, because too many loose statements have been made by various enthusiastic eulogists,

concerning Dr. Davis' agency in "founding" this, that and the other institution, to which he has rendered years of invaluable service, without, however, being entitled to the claim of founder. But from the time of his election as Trustee in 1864, to his retirement in 1881, a period of seventeen years, he was unwearied in his labors for the advancement of the interests of the Home, and the permanent moral uplifting of its inmates. He did not believe in the cure of inebriety by drugging its victims with antidotes or substitutes or "cure alls" of any kind; but he insisted upon the importance of arousing the self-respect and awakening the latent will-power of the unfortunates, so that they could resist the seductive influences of drink, and return to their vocations and their families.

In the management of the Washingtonian Home, owing partly to his professional position, but perhaps more to his unquestioned ability, Dr. Davis very soon came to be the leading spirit in the Board of Directors. He, more than any other man, mapped out the policy of the institution in regard to the treatment of alcoholism, a subject which he had studied, and continued to study, with great care.

It is perhaps a fair and just statement to say that Dr. Davis came to be regarded as one of the best equipped men in the country in regard to the treatment, or more properly the curative management of inebriety. He was Chairman of the first Finance Committee of the Washingtonian Home Association; he was also Chairman of the Executive Committee from 1865 to 1881. During all these years, he was almost invariably present at the stated meetings of the Executive Committee, no matter how inclement the weather, or how crowded he might be with professional cares. As one looks over the early records of the Washingtonian Home, one is amazed at the constancy of his attendance at the meetings of the Executive Committee, as well as the meetings of special committees which were frequently required for special duties, and of which "Dr. N. S. Davis" was pretty sure to be a member.

During his connection with the Washingtonian Home, he watched that institution grow from a small and feeble beginning into a strong corporation, with every element of permanency; he saw it housed in its present large and commodious building; he saw its "daughter" the Martha Washington Home, successfully launched, and started on its career of usefulness, and he had the satisfaction of knowing that to his untiring labors, the success of these kindred enterprises were largely due. While it is true that the doctor retired from active service in the Home in 1881, it is also true that his interest in the institution never lessened, and that his memory is cherished by his former colleagues with profound respect and affection.

But his services to the cause of temperance were by no means limited to the Washingtonian Home, or to Chicago. Lectures before various bodies; articles for the secular press, and for medical periodicals; essays for journals especially devoted to the promotion of the cause of temperance from a scientific standpoint, besides the constant hammering on the subject, as occasions presented themselves in his daily contact with patients and others; and when we remember that he began this sort of work in his youth, and never ceased it until he ceased to live, we can form some adequate opinion of the amount and value of his labors in a cause that was exceedingly unpopular when he espoused it, but which had gained a powerful hold on the public mind before age and infirmity compelled him to "cease at once to labor and to live."

It is well known to all medical men, and to a great many of the laity, that Dr. Davis was regarded as the father of the *American Medical Association,* perhaps the most powerful and influential medical organization in the world. Of course his influence in this Association was greater than that of any other individual, and it is interesting to observe that he never missed an opportunity to urge his temperance doctrines upon this august body. Especially did he enforce his views as to the value—or rather harmfulness—of alcohol as a remedy for the treatment of disease in any form. In fact, he took the positive and rather radical ground that, under no circumstances, could alcoholic stimulants be regarded as necessary or even useful, while there were plenty of other remedies more reliable, and less harmful. The doctor presented several papers to the *American Medical Association* enforcing his views, all of which are published in official reports of the *"Transactions"* of the Association, and are catalogued in a later chapter of this present work. He also presented various papers, based upon carefully conducted experiments, before medical societies or other scientific bodies in various parts of the country, all converging on the single point of the absolutely toxic effects of alcohol, whether as a beverage or as a medicine.

It is needless to add that the great majority of physicians and surgeons thought, and still think, that Dr. Davis went altogether too far in his condemnation of both fermented and distilled liquors in the treatment of certain diseases, and especially in certain grave medical and surgical emergencies, where alcoholic stimulants seem absolutely indispensable. But in conclusion I think it quite within the bounds of truth to say that the use of alcohol, in the treatment even of "emergency" cases, has become much less frequent than it was a couple of decades ago; that it is gradually becoming less frequent as time goes on; that the older stimulants are better understood and new ones are being discovered; and that to the persistent

teachings of Dr. Davis, and especially his positive and fearless position in regard to the therapeutic value of alcohol, before the various scientific bodies which he addressed, and to his voluminous writings pointing in the same direction, must very much of this salutary change be attributed. It should be said that alcohol is no longer classed as a stimulant by *writers* upon Pharmacology, but rather with ether and chloroform as an anæsthetic.

By way of securing a favorable hearing for his views, and of assuring their perpetuation among medical men, he aroused the movement which resulted in the organization of the "*American Medical Temperance Association*" in 1890, and at the meeting in Detroit in June, 1892, he delivered an address on the "Objects of the American Medical Temperance Association," in which the work of the Association was admirably set forth.

CHAPTER XI.

Literary and Journalistic Work.

Dr. Davis certainly wielded the "pen of a ready writer," but a ready writer, like a "ready" speaker, is apt to turn off much ephemeral, and perhaps some ill-digested work. But when we consider the voluminous product of Dr. Davis' pen, we are compelled to acknowledge that his writings show a degree of care, thoughtfulness and accuracy that are remarkable.

In another chapter of this work is printed a "list comprising the more important essays, addresses, reports and volumes, written on professional, scientific or educational subjects," and published in various periodicals or else in the form of separate volumes, by Dr. Davis, commencing in 1840, and ending in 1904, shortly before his death. This list* rounds up one hundred and thirty-six titles, including papers and addresses for special occasions, articles for various periodicals, and separate and independent volumes.

As one looks over this list, two or three things attract particular attention: first, the comprehensive and formidable titles that the author gave to his papers, amounting in many cases to almost a synopsis of the paper itself; second, the severely practical nature of nearly all the papers, and the absolute absence of guess-work where facts were obtainable; third, the simplicity and directness of the writer's language, every paper being written in clear, concise English, without bombast, redundancy, or the everlasting egotism which defaces the writings of so many of us; fourth, the large proportion of papers which are reports of, or are based upon, the original experimental work of the author, when the facilities for such work were so crude and meagre.

Taken as a whole the writings of Dr. Davis will compare favorably with those of any other American medical writer, although, of course, many of his papers and addresses had relation to only a certain occasion of a local or temporary nature, and therefore had only a transient and ephemeral value; but such is the fate of most of the productions of every public speaker. It is the penalty a popular orator pays for *being* a popular orator.

Between the years 1848 and 1890, Dr. Davis was editor of the eight periodicals named below, but, of course, he served only a few years with each one:

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*Vide, chapter XII.

1. *The Annalist,* a medical journal published in New York;
2. *North Western Medical and Surgical Journal,* published in Chicago;
3. *Eclectic Journal of Education and Literary Review,* also published in Chicago;
4. *Chicago Medical Journal;*
5. *Chicago Medical Examiner;*
6. *Journal of the American Medical Association;*
7. *American Medical Temperance Quarterly;*
8. *Bulletin of the American Medical Temperance Association.*

Besides having editorial charge and writing editorials for the periodical he happened to be editing at the time, he contributed largely to other periodicals upon various medical, temperance and cognate subjects.

His first editorial experience was on the *"Annalist,"* in 1848. This seems to have been rather a short-lived medical periodical, published in New York. His last editorial labors were upon the *Journal of the American Medical Association,* whereof he was the first editor and therefore, in a certain sense, the founder. Thus he was nearly forty years in editorial work, with here and there a brief interval of leisure.

He blossomed out as an author at the early age of thirty-one, his first publication being a work on agriculture. It has long been out of print, and is of course very hard to obtain, but the present Dr. N. S. Davis has kindly loaned me his copy, which is now before me. It is a curiosity indeed. Its external appearance reminds one of the common school text-books of fifty years ago, with their blue pasteboard covers and indifferent binding. The title page reads as follows:

> "A Text Book on Agriculture, by N. S. Davis, M. D.—'Mater omnium Artium, est Scientia.' New York: Samuel S. & William Wood, 1848."

The preface is dated "New York, August 1, 1847."

The author was led to write this book as the result of a report of the "Committee on Agricultural Schools," in the New York Legislature of 1847, which recommended the study of agriculture "in our best common schools." But no text-book on agriculture fit for use in the common schools existed, and to supply that want Dr. Davis prepared the work under consideration. It is in the form of a school book, with questions and answers, commencing with elementary chemistry, and ending with "Insects and Worms Injurious to Vegetation." In its day it must have been an exceedingly welcome addition to the common school text-books.

It appears that the State Agricultural Society offered a premium for the best work on agriculture, and our author submitted his book, not quite complete, in competition with others, and was awarded a "small premium"

by the examining committee, with the privilege of revising and completing his work, and submitting it for final competitive examination. When the time came, Dr. Davis presented his book again; "but finding that it was the only one in the hands of the committee, it was withdrawn, the author not wishing to ask an award in a *cours seulement*"—an example of high-toned honor and delicacy, which will bear copying in these later and perhaps less scrupulous days.

His next work was a modest little 12 mo. volume of 228 pages, with the following overpowering title:

> "History of Medical Education and Institutions in the United States, from the first settlement of the British Colonies to the year 1850; with a chapter on the Present Condition and Wants of the Profession, and the means necessary for supplying those wants, and elevating the character and extending the usefulness of the whole Profession.—Chicago, 1851."

One is very much tempted to pity this innocent little book, with its back load of title, but a more interesting, readable and profitable bit of medical history, cannot be found anywhere. I regret to say that it is out of print, although I have myself had the good fortune to obtain a copy, and have perused it with peculiar pleasure. It is inscribed by the author to his "esteemed friend and benefactor, Dr. Willard Parker, of New York, especially; and to the medical profession of the United States generally." (Dr. Willard Parker was at that time the leading surgeon of New York.)

Our author's next publication in book form, was

> "A History of the American Medical Association from its Organization to January, 1855."

This book, from preface to finis, is an unconscious pæan of triumph. Although the author knew full well that the *American Medical Association* was mainly the fruit of his own labor; that many obstacles had been met and overcome by him in accomplishing this work, and that its success and permanency now seemed well assured, yet we find no attempt at self-glorification, no vindictive flings at those who opposed him and his broad and statesman-like plans; but there is an undercurrent of rejoicing in the hour of victory which was undoubtedly shared by most of the readers of that history, when it was first issued. It is altogether desirable that this work, now out of print and almost impossible to obtain, be reissued and brought down to date by some competent successor of Dr. Davis.

Next in order comes a book entitled "Clinical Lectures on Various Important Diseases," whereof the second edition was issued in 1874. It was edited by Dr. F. H. Davis, Dr. N. S. Davis' son, who was closely associated with his father, until his untimely death, as already noted. This

is a small and unpretentious work of twenty clinical lectures, based upon cases occurring in Dr. N. S. Davis' service in Mercy Hospital. As a second edition was called for only a year after the issue of the first, the lectures must have found favor with the profession. In glancing over this work at the present day, one is struck with the vast changes in the treatment of acute diseases, when compared with that of thirty or forty years ago. *Then* patients were "treated" indeed; *now* they are pretty much left to the trained nurse and the *vis medicatrix naturæ*.

Dr. Davis contributed a chapter on BRONCHITIS to Lea Brothers & Co.'s *"System of Practical Medicine,"* published in 1885, which shared the fate of most of the articles consigned to such literary graveyards as the wearisome "systems" of medicine and surgery, published during the last twenty years, have turned out to be.

In 1886, he published the second edition of his greatest work, entitled "LECTURES ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE," issued from the press of Jansen, McClurg & Co., of Chicago. One of the things which Dr. Davis "set before himself to accomplish," as he remarked to his trusted friend, Dr. John H. Hollister, was the publication of a "text-book which should embody his views of the 'Theory and Practice of Medicine.'" And this text-book first made its appearance in 1884, and in a little more than a year a second edition was called for. It was one of the first text-books to adopt the metric system. It is in the form of didactic lectures extemporaneously delivered, but stenographically reported. There are ninety-two lectures in all, the closing lecture being on the "Therapeutics of Alcohol" and the closing words of this characteristic address are quoted from the wise man: "Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging; and whosoever is *deceived* thereby, is not wise."

The student who reads these lectures, reads Dr. Davis. They are his own production, delivered in his own clear, terse style, embodying his own views as to pathology and treatment. He quotes from nobody, except King Solomon, defers to nobody, borrows from nobody; but in his own sturdy and positive manner proceeds with his task, and finishes it up, without the slightest indication that he has exhausted either himself or his subject.

It is certainly delightful to notice that we find in these lectures no encouragement given to the hopeless and enervating therapeutic agnosticism which limps so languidly through most of our recent text-books on the Practice of Medicine.

Dr. Davis made some contributions to Wm. Wood & Co.'s *"Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences"* and to Sajous' *"Annual of the Universal Medical Sciences,"* where they are safely and permanently hidden from mortal vision.

In 1903 the Cleveland Press of Chicago published the first edition of Dr. Davis' *"History of Medicine,"* and at the present time (August, 1907) a second edition is passing through the press. In the judgment of the present writer, this is the best and ablest of the works of its distinguished author. It is a book of 209 pages, divided into fourteen chapters. The work is based upon the author's annual courses of lectures, from 1892 to 1897, "both years included," to the senior class of the Northwestern University Medical School, on the history of medicine. "The following chapters," states the author in his preface, "constituting this book, have been written and revised from the notes used in the lecture room; each chapter representing a lecture in the order in which it was given." It is a concise, condensed, but very comprehensive and complete history of the "progressive development of the various branches of medical science and practice," * * * * "from the earliest periods of which we have any records, to the end of the nineteenth century of the Christian era."* Every chapter gives evidence of careful study, painstaking investigation, close familiarity with the literature of the subject, and consummate ability and cleverness in the arrangement of material.

It is remarkable, in the first place, how the busy author ever found time and opportunity to gather the necessary data for this *History,* and in the second place how he ever managed to condense such a vast store of information into so small a space, without spoiling it by too much condensation. But the fact remains that in this rather diminutive volume, we find an essentially complete and connected history of medicine "from the earliest period of which we have any records, to the end of the nineteenth century," and the story is told in a style worthy of the subject and of the venerable author, for when this volume was first printed, he was eighty-six years of age. As he died in less than a year after the publication of this book, it may be regarded as his last literary work, and as a fitting *finale* to his long and remarkable literary and journalistic career.

In endeavoring to form a just and impartial estimate of Dr. Davis' position in medical literature, we remark at once that it is almost marvelous how so busy a man ever found time to turn off such an astonishing amount of work, and the wonder grows still greater when we remember that he never employed a private secretary, amanuensis, stenographer or typewriter, except in the preparation of his *Practice of Medicine,* and a very little of his later literary work. He never "got used" to having assistance about anything that he could do himself. He wrote slowly, but he could work for many hours at a stretch, without seeming to suffer any material exhaustion or nervous wear and tear. His chirography was certainly no in-

**History of Medicine* (preface).

dex of the character of the man, as will be seen by the specimen page given elsewhere.

As to the actual and permanent value of his writings, it is altogether likely that his contributions to medical literature will share the fate of the vast volume of the productions of other men, which may or may not have been read, but at all events are forgotten. Where are the text-books of my own student days? What has been the destiny of the journalistic medical literature of twenty years ago? Both are regarded as worthless —except as curiosities—by the younger and more advanced men of to-day.

In the very nature of things medical literature must be to a great extent, ephemeral, for which let us be thankful. Let our friends the lawyers hug their musty old tomes, and solemnly bow down to "precedent," but let us medical men push forward into "green fields and pastures new," just exactly as Dr. Davis did during the whole of his long and useful life. His medical writings served their purpose and their day; they were a constant incentive to the younger men of his time, and they are still an example of what a life of intense intellectual activity can accomplish.

His historical works will become permanent works of reference, and their value will increase as the years go by and the early history of American Medicine, especially as regards medical education, becomes more and more important.

CHAPTER XII.

The Literary and Scientific Harvest of a Busy Life.

The following list comprises the more important essays, papers, addresses, reports and volumes written on professional, scientific or educational subjects and published in various books and periodicals by Dr. Davis from Feby., 1840, to March, 1904; making a little more than sixty-four years of continuous literary and scientific activity:

1. A "Prize Essay on Diseases of the Spinal Column," presented to the New York State Medical Society in February, 1840, and published in the *Transactions* of the Society for that year.

2. A "Prize Essay on the Discoveries in the Physiology of the Nervous System from the Time of Charles Bell to the Present Time," (1841), presented to the New York State Medical Society, Feb., 1841, and published in the *Transactions* of the Society that year.

3. "A Brief Review of Dr. Marshall Hall on an Excito-Motory System of Nerves." See *Transactions of N. Y. State Med. Society*, 1842.

4. "Medical and Topographical Sketches of Binghamton, and the Surrounding Country." See *Transactions of the N. Y. State Med. Society*, 1843.

5. Also in same volume of *Transactions* a paper on the "Epidemic Influenza," as it prevailed at Binghamton.

6. Report of the "Medico-Legal Testimony on the Trial of Mrs. Turpenning for the Murder of Her Husband, with Observations on the Same." See *Tranactions of the N. Y. State Med. Society*, 1844.

7. Report on "Medical Education, Examinations and Legislation," to N. Y. State Medical Society, Feb., 1845. See *Transactions* for that year.

8. "A Text-Book on Agriculture, Designed for Study in Schools." Published by S. S. & W. Wood, New York, 1848.

9. "SHORT ESSAYS ON PATHOLOGY, AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE OF DISEASES AND THE CONDITION OF THE SOLIDS AND FLUIDS WHICH ATTEND THEM." See *The Analist*, New York, 1847-8.

10. Report "ON THE MEDICAL PROPERTIES OF INDIGENOUS MEDICINAL PLANTS," to the American Medical Association, 1848-49. See *Transactions*, Volumes I. and II.

11. An address on "FREE MEDICAL SCHOOLS," introductory to the course of instruction in Rush Medical College, Oct., 1849.

12. A paper on the question, "HAS THE CEREBELLUM ANY SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH THE SEXUAL PROPENSITY OR FUNCTION OF GENERATION?" with some original investigations. See *Transactions of Amer. Med. Association*, Vol. 3, 1850.

13. "HISTORY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH PROVINCES TO THE YEAR 1850, WITH A CHAPTER ON THE PRESENT CONDITION AND WANTS OF THE PROFESSION, AND THE MEANS NECESSARY FOR SUPPLYING THOSE WANTS." Chicago, 1851.

14. "AN EXPERIMENTAL INQUIRY CONCERNING SOME POINTS CONNECTED WITH THE FUNCTIONS OF ASSIMILATION, NUTRITION AND ANIMAL HEAT; ALSO ANALYSES OF THE BLOOD OF THE RENAL VEIN AND ARTERY AND THAT OF THE ILIAC VEIN AND ARTERY OF SAME ANIMAL." Read before the Amer. Med. Association, 1851, and published in *North Western Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1851.

15. "REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL LITERATURE" to the Amer. Med. Association, 1853. See *Transactions*, p. 97, Vol. VI.

16. "AN INQUIRY, CRITICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL, INTO THE PATHOLOGY OF FEVER." See *North Western Med. and Surg. Journal*, Vol. II. New Series, 1853, Chicago.

17. "REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRACTICAL MEDICINE, PRESENTED TO THE ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY," June, 1852. See*Transactions*, p. 47, 1852.

18. "ON THE INTIMATE RELATIONS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE TO THE WHOLE FIELD OF NATURAL SCIENCES," being the annual address to the Ill. State Medical Society. See *Transactions*, p. 15, 1852.

19. "On the Effects of Alcoholic Drinks on the Human System and the Duties of Medical Men in Relation Thereto," an address delivered by request of the class in Rush Medical College on Christmas Day (Dec. 25th, 1854), with results of original experiments appended. See *North Western Medical and Surgical Journal,* March, 1855, Vol. IV., New Series.

20. "Report on the Means of Preserving Milk," presented to the Amer. Med. Association. See *Transactions,* p. 535, Vol. VIII., 1855.

21. "Report on the Changes in the Composition and Properties of the Milk of the Human Female, Produced by Menstruation and Pregnancy," presented to the American Medical Association. See *Transactions,* p. 515, Vol. IX., 1856.

22. "On the Influence of Alcoholic Drinks on Phthisis or Consumption," being the annual address to the Illinois State Medical Society, June 4th, 1856. See *Transactions* of Society, p. 71, 1856.

23. "History of the American Medical Association from its Organization to January, 1855." Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1855.

24. "On the Changes that Take Place in the Blood in the Continued Forms of Fever, Including Chemical Analyses." Presented to the Illinois State Medical Society, June, 1857. See *Transactions,* p. 92, 1857.

25. "Effects of Alcohol in Phthisis." See *North Western Medical and Surgical Journal,* Vol. VI., New Series, pp. 48-190, 1857.

26. "Address Introductory to the Annual Course of Instruction in Rush Medical College," Oct., 1857. See *North Western Med. and Surg. Journal,* Dec., 1857.

27. "The Mutual Relations and Consequent Mutual Duties of the Medical Profession and of the Community," being the annual address to the Illinois State Medical Society, May, 1860. See *Transactions,* p. 19.

28. "On the Food Most Proper for Infants When Deprived of the Milk of the Mother." See *Transactions of the Ill. State Med. Society,* p. 161, 1860.

29. "On the Influence of Alcoholic Drinks on the Development and Progress of Pulmonary Tuberculosis." Read in the Medical Section of the Amer. Med. Association, June, 1860. See *Transactions,* Vol 13, p. 565, 1860.

30. "Medical College Education," introductory address at the opening of the Medical Department of Lind University, Oct., 1859. See *Chicago Medical Examiner,* Vol. 1, p. 1, 1860.

31. "Nature and Art. Their Relative Influence in the Management of Diseases. Are they Antagonistic or Co-operative?" An essay read to the Chicago Medical Society, Oct. 19th, 1860. See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. II., p. 129, 1861.

32. "On Inversio-Uteri, its Causes, Mechanism and Medico-Legal Bearings." See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. II., p. 4, 1861.

33. "On Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis," its Pathology and Treatment. See *Chicago. Med. Examiner,* Vol. IV., p. 304, 1863.

34. "Lecture Introductory to the Fifth Annual Course in the Chicago Medical College, Oct. 12th, 1863." See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. IV., p. 550, 1863.

35. "The Report on Practical Medicine," to the Illinois State Medical Society, May, 1864. See *Transactions,* p. 14, 1864.

36. "On the Nature and Objects of Medical Study—Duties and Qualifications of the Physician—Influence of Popular Opinions—the Present Status of Practical Medicine." See *Chicago Medical Examiner,* Vol. V., p. 616, 1864.

37. Address of the President of the American Medical Association, June, 1865. See *Transactions,* Vol. 16, p. 71, 1865.

38. "Report to the Mayor and Council on the Means for Improving the Sanitary Condition of Chicago." See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. VI., p. 705, 1865.

39. "Address to the American Dental Association," July 27th, 1865. See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. VI., p. 576, 1865.

40. "Report on the Etiological and Pathological Relations of Epidemic Erysipelas, Spotted Fever and Diph-

THERIA." See *Transactions of the American Med. Association,* Vol. 17, p. 379, 1866.

41. "REPORT ON THE CONVENTION OF DELEGATES FROM THE SEVERAL MEDICAL COLLEGES OF THE UNITED STATES," Cincinnati, May, 1867. See *Transactions,* Vol. 18, p. 377, 1867.

42. "EXPERIMENTAL INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS ON MAN," presented to the Ill. State Med. Society. See *Transactions* for 1867.

43. "HOW FAR DO THE FACTS ACCOMPANYING THE PREVALENCE OF EPIDEMIC CHOLERA IN CHICAGO DURING THE SUMMER AND AUTUMN OF 1866 THROW LIGHT OF THE ETIOLOGY OF THAT DISEASE?" Read to the Amer. Med. Association, May, 1867. See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. VIII., p. 637, 1867.

44. "REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF CHICAGO AND THE PREVALENCE OF DISEASE FROM OCT., 1867, TO APRIL, 1868." See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. IX., p. 257, 1868.

45. "REPORT ON THE PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF EPIDEMIC CHOLERA," presented to Ill. State Med. Society, May, 1868. See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. IX., p. 527.

46. "ON THE HISTORY, CONDITION AND MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL JOURNALISM IN THE UNITED STATES." An address presented to the American Association of Medical Editors, May 2d, 1870. See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. —, 1870.

47. "REPORT ON VEGETABLE PARASITES AND THEIR ETIOLOGICAL RELATIONS TO DISEASE." Presented to the Ill. State Microscopical Society, Jan. 14th, 1870. See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. XI., p. 70, 1870.

48. "REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE WITH STATE MEDICAL SOCIETIES CONCERNING THE MEANS FOR ELEVATING THE STANDARD OF MEDICAL EDUCATION." Presented to the Amer. Med. Association, May, 1871. See *Transactions,* Vol. 22, p. 159, 1871.

49. A paper on the "COMPARATIVE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO, ON THE HUMAN SYSTEM," presented by request to the Chicago Medical Society, Dec. 26th, 1870. See *Chicago Med. Examiner,* Vol. XII., pp. 129 and 274, 1871.

50. "REPORT ON A PROPOSED REVISION OF THE CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS OF THE AMERICAN MED. ASSOCIATION," June, 1874. See *Transactions,* Vol. 25, p. 28, 1874.

51. Address on "PRACTICAL MEDICINE," etc., to the Section on Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica and Physiology. See *Transactions of American Med. Association,* Vol. 25, p. 109, 1874.

52. "ON CHRONIC CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS." Read to Ill. State Med. Society in May, 1873. See *Transactions* of the Society, page 219, 1873.

53. "REPORT ON THE NECESSITY FOR COINCIDENT CLINICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECORDS IN THE STUDY OF ETIOLOGY; AND ON THE INFLUENCE OF ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOWEL AFFECTIONS OF CHILDREN." See *Transactions of American Med. Association,* Vol. 26, p. 125, 1875.

54. Address on the "PROGRESS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 1776 TO 1876," delivered to the Centennial International Medical Congress, at Philadelphia, 1876. See *Transactions* of the Congress.

The same revised and extended, was published the same year by the National Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

55. "REPORT ON CLINICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS IN THEIR RELATION TO ETIOLOGY." See *Transactions of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. 28, p. 153, 1877.

56. "REPORT ON DRUGS AND MEDICINES TO THE ILL. STATE MED. SOCIETY." See *Transactions,* p. 180, 1878.

57. "REPORT ON THE PREVENTION OF BOWEL AFFECTIONS, BOTH IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS, AS INDICATED BY A COMPARISON OF CLINICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL FACTS RELATING TO THEIR ETIOLOGY." See *Transactions of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. 30, p. 145, 1879.

58. "REPORT ON OZONE AND OTHER ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS IN CONNECTION WITH RECORDS OF THE PREVALENCE OF DISEASES." See *Transactions of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. 32, p. 481, 1881.

59. "ON THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF INTERNAL ANTIPYRETICS IN THE TREATMENT OF FEVERS." See *Transactions Ill. State Med. Society,* p. 253, May, 1882.

60. "ON THE EFFICIENT CAUSES OF SEROUS DIARRHŒA AND CHOLERA MORBUS IN INFANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD, AND THE BEST MEANS FOR LESSENING THE MORTALITY FROM THOSE AF-

FECTIONS." See *Transactions of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. 33, p. 439, 1882.

61. "REPORT ON PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND EPIDEMICS TO ILL. STATE MED. SOCIETY." See *Transactions* of the Society, p. 63, 1883.

62. CLINICAL LECTURES ON VARIOUS IMPORTANT DISEASES:" Second Edition, Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1874.

63. "ADDRESS ON THE PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE TENDENCIES OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN THE UNITED STATES," delivered at the annual meeting of the American Association of Medical Editors, Cleveland, June 5th, 1883. See *Journal of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. I., p. 33, 1883.

64. "REPORT ON METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND THEIR RELATIONS TO THE PREVALENCE OF ACUTE DISEASE." See *Journal of the Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. II., pp. 85 and 169, 1884.

65. "ON THE USE OF ERGOT IN THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CONDITIONS IN PNEUMONIA." See *Jour. Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. II., p. 369, 1884.

66. Chapter on "BRONCHITIS—ACUTE AND CHRONIC—CATARRHAL, MECHANICAL, CAPILLARY AND PSEUDO-MEMBRANEOUS." See *A System of Practical Medicine by American Authors,* Vol. III. Philadelphia, Lea Brothers & Co., 1885.

67. "LECTURES ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE," (nearly 900 pages.) Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co., 1884. Second edition in 1886.

68. "REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE AMER. MED. ASSOCIATION, ON CHANGES IN THE PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND BY-LAWS OF THAT ASSOCIATION." See *Journal of the Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. VIII., p. 711, 1887.

69. "INAUGURAL ADDRESS" as President of the IX. International Medical Congress, Washington, D. C., 1887. See *Transactions* of the Congress, Vol. I., p. 10, 1887.

70. Articles on "INSANITY IN ACUTE AND CHRONIC ALCOHOLISM; POLYURIA OR DIABETES INSIPIDUS; CHRONIC ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM," in the *Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences,* Vols. IV., V., VI., New York. William Wood & Company, 1887-1888.

71. "REPORT ON THE INFLUENCE OF METEOROLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS ON THE PREVALENCE OF ACUTE

DISEASES," to the Ill. State Med. Society. See *Transactions* of the Society, p. 41, 1889.

72. "THE INFLUENCE OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IN ITS RELATIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH." Presented at the meeting, 1889. See *Journal of the Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. XIII., p. 122, 1889.

73. "HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF CHICAGO." See *Magazine of Western History,* New York, 132 Nassau St., Vol. XI.-XII., 1889-90.

74. "INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL ON THE HUMAN SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY AS USED IN BEER AND WINE; VIEWED FROM A SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT; TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNT OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS ANNUALLY CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES." New York National Temperance Society Publication House, 58 Reade St., 1890.

75. Annual Address on "PRACTICAL MEDICINE," read to Amer. Med. Association, May, 1890. See *Journal of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. XIV., p. 746, 1890.

76. "REPORT ON THE METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND THEIR RELATIONS TO THE EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA AND OTHER DISEASES IN CHICAGO DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31ST, 1890." See *Journal of the Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. XIV., p. 817, 1890.

77. "THE BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE AND THE PROPER METHODS OF INVESTIGATION." A lecture to the Post-Graduate Medical School of Chicago, Jan. 6th, 1891. See *Journal of the Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. XVI., p. 114, 1891.

78. "REPORT ON THE RELATIONS OF METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS TO THE ORIGIN AND PREVALENCE OF ACUTE DISEASES." See *Journal of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. XVII., p. 245, 1891.

79. "ON THE ORIGIN AND SPREAD OF YELLOW FEVER AND THE MEANS OF PREVENTING IT." See *Maryland Medical Journal,* Oct., 1878.

80. "BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE PATHOLOGY OF PNEUMONIA AND THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GUIDE IN ITS TREATMENT." Presented to the Chicago Medical Society, Feb., 1892. See *Chicago Medical Recorder.*

81. "ON THE PREVALENT THERAPEUTIC INCONSISTENCIES IN MEDICAL PRACTICE; ILLUSTRATED IN CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE AND IN CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS." Presented at the an-

nual meeting of the Michigan State Med. Society. See *Transactions* of that Society, Vol. XVI., p. 62, 1892.

82. "On the Physiological and Therapeutic Difference Between the Carbo-Hydrates, Constituting Proximate Elements of Living Vegetable and Animal Bodies, and those Resulting from Bacteriological or Retrograde Action." Being the annual address to the Amer. Med. Temp. Association, June 9th, 1892. See *Transactions* of that Society for 1892.

83. A paper on "Illusions and Delusions in Medical Practice," read to the Illinois State Medical Society, May, 1892. See *Transactions,* p. 54, 1892.

84. "On the Influence of the Ship Canal, now Being Constructed by the Trustees of the Chicago Drainage District, on the Sanitary Condition of Chicago and the State of Illinois." Presented to the Ill. Med. Society, May, 1893. See *Transactions* of the Society, p. 493, 1893.

85. "Clinical Facts and Cases Illustrating the Effects of Alcoholic Liquors in the Treatment of Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia, Diphtheria and Some Other Affections." Being the annual address to the Amer. Med. Temp. Association, June, 1893. See *The Amer. Med. Temp. Quarterly,* July, 1893, p. 1.

86. "History of the American Medical Temperance Association." See *Temperance in All Nations,* Vol. I., p. 89, 1893.

87. Address at the Opening of the Amer. Med. Temp. Association Section of the World's Temperance Congresses, in the Art Institute, Chicago, June 10th, 1893. See *Temperance in All Nations,* Vol. II., p. 185, 1893.

88. "The Results of Scientific Investigations Concerning the Effects of Alcohol on the Living Human System, to this Date." A paper read in the Medical Section of the World's Temp. Congresses, June, 1893. See *Temp. in All Nations,* Vol. II., p. 209, 1893.

89. Section on "Gout" in the *Supplement to Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences,* New York: William Wood & Co., p. 382, 1893.

90. "The History, Present Status, and Future Progress of Practical Medicine." A lecture at the Post-Graduate

Medical School and Hospital of Chicago, Sept. 1st, 1893. See *Chicago Clinical Review,* Oct., 1893.

91. "Introductory Lecture to the Thirty-fifth Annual Course of Instruction in the Northwestern University Medical School" (Chicago Medical College), Sept. 26th, 1893. See *The Chicago Medical Recorder,* Oct., 1893.

92. Section on "Rheumatism and Gout;" in the *Annual of the Universal Medical Sciences,* Vol. I., *each year,* from 1888 to 1894, inclusive. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1893.

93. "On the Nature and Effects of Alcoholic Liquors." Being the introductory address before the International Medical Congress in Prohibition Park, Station Island, July 15th, 1891. Published in the *American Medical Temperance Quarterly,* Jan., 1894.

94. "The Sources or Causes of Erroneous Conclusions from Clinical Observations Concerning the Effects of Alcohol in the Treatment of Disease." *Medical Temperance Quarterly,* July, 1894.

95. "A Series of Apparently Well Established Facts in Therapeutics on which are Based Some Questions of Great Practical Importance." *Journal of American Medical Association,* Dec. 22d, 1894.

96. "What are the Essential Conditions for the Maintenance of the Natural Action of the Heart; and What are the Causes that Impair Such Action, or Cause its Entire Failure, Especially in the Progress of Acute Febrile Affections?" *American Medical Temperance Quarterly,* Jan., 1895.

97. "The Present Status of Bacteriologic Investigations and Their Relations to Etiology and Therapeutics." Read at the Forty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Medical Society, May, 1895. *Transactions* of the Society, 1895.

98. "Some Familiar Clinical Cases Illustrating Important Items Connected with the Etiology, Pathology, and Therapeutics of Disordered Digestion and Assimilation." See *International Clinics,* Vol. I., Fifth Series, Philadelphia, 1895.

99. "Does Alcohol Ever Act as a Food or as a Generator of Any Natural Force in the Living Body?" Read in the Section on State Medicine of the American Medical Asso-

ciation, May, 1895. Published in *Journal of American Medical Association,* Sept. 14th, 1895.

100. "On the Alleged Opposite Action of Large and Small Doses of Drugs." Read in a meeting of the British Medical Temperance Association and published in the *Medical Pioneer,* London, Eng., and in the *Bulletin of the American Medical Temperance Association,* Vol. III., No. 1, Nov., 1895.

101. "The Importance of the Study of Medical Jurisprudence by Students of Law, and the Extent to which it Should be Taught in Schools or Colleges for the Education of Such Students." A paper read before the Section of Legal Education of the American Bar Association at the annual meeting, Aug. 30th, 1895. See *Transactions* of the Association, 1895.

102. "The Causes and Treatment of Some of the More Common Functional Disorders of the Heart." Published in *International Clinics,* Vol. III., Fifth Series, and continued in Vol. I., Sixth Series, 1896.

103. "What Constitutes True Clinical Experience in Medical Practice, and its Relations to the Public Health." Read before the Section on State Medicine of the American Medical Association, May, 1896. Published in the *Journal of the American Med. Ass'n.,* May, 1896.

104. "An Address on the Character of Dr. Edward Jenner and the History of His Discovery of the Protective Value of Vaccination." Read at the Centennial Anniversary, May, 1896. Published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association,* May 9th, 1896.

105. "A Brief History of the Origin of the American Medical Association—The Principles on which it was Organized—The Object it was Designed to Accomplish—And How Far They Have Been Attained During the Half-Century of its Existence." Published in *Journal of the American Medical Association,* June 12th, 1897.

106. "What will be the Effect of Having Pulmonary Tuberculosis Officially Declared a Contagious Disease, and every Case to be Reported by the Physician and be Subjected to Official Sanitary Regulation?" Published in the *Bulletin of the American Med. Temp. Association,* May, 1897.

107. "On the Therapeutic Properties of Alcohol, and the Reason why the Fermented and Distilled Beverages or Liquors Should not be Recognized in the Pharmacopeia as Medicinal Agents." Published October, 1897, in the *Bulletin of the Amer. Temp. Association.*

108. "Are Narcotics and Anesthetics, as Opium, Tobacco, Cocaine, Alcohol, Ether and Chloroform Capable of Filling any Natural Want, Instinct or Physiological Process in the Healthy Human Body?" Published in the *Bulletin of the American Medical Temperance Association,* July, 1898.

109. "Heredity and its Relations to Life Insurance." Published in *Chicago Medical Recorder,* August, 1898. Also in *Bulletin of Amer. Med. Temp. Association,* July, 1898.

110. "Importance of Regulating Dietetics in Harmony with the Physiological Laws Controlling Digestion, Nutrition and Waste." *Bulletin of American Medical Temp. Association,* Jan., 1899.

111. "What are the Chief Determining Causes of Death in Fatal Cases of Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia, Diphtheria, etc., and How can they be Most Successfully Combatted?" *Chicago Medical Recorder,* March, 1899.

112. "What are the Physiological Processes or Functions that Impart to the Living Human Body its Vital Resistance or Immunity, and How can they be Ended by Therapeutic Agents?" *Journal of Amer. Med. Association,* July 1st, 1899.

113. "Is there Any Causative or Etiological Relation Between the Extensive Use of Alcoholic Drinks and the Continued Increase of Epilepsy, Imbecility, Insanity and Criminality in all the Countries of Europe and America?" *Bulletin of the American Medical Temperance Association,* October, 1899.

114. "Dental and Oral Surgery: Their Relations to the General Field of Medicine and Surgery; and the Proper Professional Status of those who Practice them." *Journal of the American Med. Association,* June 16th, 1900.

115. "History of Experimental Investigations Concerning the Influence of Alcohol and Alcoholic Drinks on the Functions and Structure of the Living Animal

Body by American Investigators." *Bulletin of the American Medical Temperance Association,* July and October, 1900.

116. "The Evils Resulting from Naming Diseases or their Causes after Individuals, and the Importance of Maintaining a Clear Distinction Between Etiology and Pathology." *Transactions of the Illinois State Medical Society,* 1900.

117. "History of the Illinois State Medical Society During the First Fifty Years of its Existence." *Transactions* of the Society for 1900.

118. "Alcohol and Food. Can any Substance be both Food and a Poison, etc., etc." *Bulletin of the American Med. Temperance Association,* Jan., 1901.

119. "Does Alcohol as it Exists in Fermented and Distilled Liquors Produce any Real Stimulating or Restorative Effect if Given in Cases of Shock, Syncope, or Sudden Prostration of any Kind? If not, What Remedies are Most Effectual in such Cases?" *Transactions of Kansas State Medical Society* for 1901.

120. "Mental Worry and Nervous Excitability: Their Effect upon all the Functions of the Body, and on the Duration of Life." *Chicago Record-Herald,* April 11th, 1901.

121. "What are the Most Efficient Remedies for Shock, Syncope, or Temporary Exhaustion; and how Should they be Used?" *Journal of the Illinois State Medical Association,* July, 1901.

122. "Old Age, and How to Use it to the Best Advantage." *Chicago Record-Herald,* May 23d, 1901.

123. "The Training of the Physician—His Responsibilities—and Nature of His Calling, etc." *Record-Herald,* July 5th, 1901.

124. "On the Need of much more Accurate Knowledge Concerning both the Immediate and Remote Effects of the Remedial Agents in General Use, and the Exercise of More Care to Avoid the Coincident Administration of Antagonistic Remedies in Acute Disease." *Journal of Amer. Med. Association,* Vol. 38, pp. 1415-1418, May 31st, 1902.

125. "The Relations of Alcohol and Alcoholic Liquors to the Economic, Sanitary, and Moral Interests of the

HUMAN FAMILY, AND THE TRUE PRINCIPLES OF LEGISLATION THAT SHOULD GOVERN THEIR USE." Address to the annual meeting of the American Medical Temperance Association, Saratoga, N. Y., June 13th, 1902. Published in the *Quarterly Journal of Inebriety* for July, 1902, and in the *Bulletin of the American Med. Temp. Association,* July, 1902.

126. "A BRIEF HISTORY OF MEDICAL JOURNALISM IN CHICAGO TO THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY." *Clinical Review,* of Chicago, September, 1902.

127. "THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND MEDICAL TEACHERS OF SIXTY YEARS AGO." *Medical Standard,* of Chicago, for September, 1902.

128. "THE PROPER USE OF BATHS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH AND THE PROLONGATION OF LIFE." *Chicago Record-Herald,* October 6th, 1902.

129. "TO PRESERVE VITAL FORCE AND GOOD CIRCULATION." *Chicago Record-Herald,* November 27th, 1902.

130. "CRITICISMS OF THE DOCTRINE OF 'NO BREAKFAST CURE,' ETC." *Chicago Record-Herald,* December, 1902.

131. "ARE THE QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE NATURE, EFFECTS, USES AND ABUSES OF ALCOHOL AS EXISTING IN FERMENTED AND DISTILLED LIQUORS, POLITICAL QUESTIONS TO BE SETTLED BY VOTES AT ORDINARY ELECTIONS; OR ARE THEY TRUE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MORALS AND THEREFORE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE SANITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE COURTS OF JUSTICE?" Read to the Amer. Med. Temp. Association, May, 1903, and published in *Journal of Inebriety,* July, 1903.

132. "HISTORY OF MEDICINE, WITH CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS." Published by the Cleveland Press, Chicago, 1903. (Second Edition, 1907.)

133. "IS ALCOHOLIC MEDICATION NECESSARY? IN OTHER WORDS, IS ALCOHOL AS IT EXISTS IN VARIOUS FERMENTED AND DISTILLED LIQUORS, A NECESSARY REMEDY IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF ANY KIND, OR IN ANY STAGE OF THEIR PROGRESS?" Published in the *Pacific Health Journal* for Jan., 1904..

134. "WHY HAS THE PREVALENCE OF PNEUMONIA AND THE RATIO OF ITS MORTALITY, BEEN INCREASING DURING THE LAST SIXTY YEARS; AND HOW CAN SUCH INCREASE BE OBVIATED AND

ITS RATIO OF MORTALITY BE DECREASED?" Written Dec., 1903.

135. "THE EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE HUMAN SYSTEM." Published in *The Life Boat* for February, 1904. *International Clinics,* Vol. 1, p. 41, 14th Series.

136. "ON THE TRUE FUNCTIONS OF THE SKIN AND PROPER BATHING: A CRITICISM OF THE DOCTRINE OF 'NO BATHING.'" Published in the *Chicago Record-Herald,* March 18th, 1904, page 6.

Explanation (by Dr. Davis): The foregoing list of contributions to Medical Science, Literature and Education, do not include any editorials, reviews, reports of clinics, medical society proceedings, etc., to be found in almost every number of the medical journals I have been engaged in editing from 1848 to the present time, viz: *The Analist;* the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal; Chicago Medical Journal; Chicago Medical Examiner; Journal of the American Medical Association;* the *American Medical Temperance Quarterly;* and the *Bulletin of the American Medical Temperance Association.*

Chicago, Ill., March 20th, 1904.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Testimonial Banquet of Oct. 5, 1901.

The following account* of this interesting occasion can neither be omitted nor abbreviated, without doing injustice to the memory of the honored guest, and to those who participated:

A testimonial banquet was given to Dr. N. S. Davis, the Father of the American Medical Association, Nestor of the medical profession, first editor of this journal, and founder of the Mercy Hospital, at the Auditorium Hotel, Oct. 5, 1901, under the auspices of the Chicago Medical Society.

The event was a grand success. Approximately three hundred and fifty physicians from Chicago and various parts of the country attended the feast. The gathering was a representative one and typified in a striking manner the high esteem in which Dr. Davis is held by the profession. Cities outside of Chicago were well represented. The tables were tastefully decorated with flowers. The speeches were timely, replete with good thoughts, characterized by zest, and interspersed with wit and humor. The reminiscences about Dr. Davis were fraught with interest, and their recital by Drs. Andrews, Waxham, Hollister and Bridge created amusement.

Dr. Davis sat between Drs. Fenger and Billings, the one, the highest embodiment of modern surgical pathology, the other, representing all that is progressive and modern in internal medicine. After the banquet Dr. Christian Fenger, president of the Chicago Medical Society, rapped for order, and introduced Dr. James H. Stowell, who said that the members of the profession had assembled to pay their respects to one of the greatest examples of professional honor and dignity in the medical profession. He said it was unnecessary to call attention to the many eminent pupils that had been sent out under the instruction of the distinguished guest. The Deans of three of the largest medical colleges in Chicago were pupils of Dr. Davis. Throughout the country graduates from the Chicago Medical College

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were occupying positions of eminence, and among them were Drs. Nicholas Senn, Norman Bridge, Frank Billings, Nathan Smith Davis, Jr., Arthur R. Edwards, Roswell Park, John A. Fordyce, and many others, who had in some way or other been honored by their professional brethren.

The toastmaster of the evening, Dr. Frank Billings, said that to preside at a banquet given in honor of Dr. Davis was an honor second only to that which Dr. Davis was receiving. Dr. Davis did not belong to Chicago alone, but to the whole country. Dr. Davis was a New Yorker by birth, was born Jan. 9, 1817, and graduated in medicine in 1837, when he was not quite 21 years of age, from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York. He then practiced medicine in Binghamton, N. Y., for about ten years, and, seeking wider fields, or people in a better field seeking him, he went to New York City, where he remained about two years. Then Chicago, always looking for something better, found Dr. Davis there and invited him to Chicago. He came here in 1849 and taught in Rush Medical College for the next ten years. Not satisfied with the method of teaching at that time, and desiring a different method and a longer course, he, with others, severed his connection with that school and founded the Chicago Medical College in 1859. He said that the history of Dr. Davis was known to all, and it was hardly necessary for him to take time in repeating it. He only desired to say that Dr. Davis had become known throughout the whole country as a medical teacher, as a lever to elevate medical education. Practically, it was due to Dr. Davis that the first steps toward a better method of medical education were taken in America, and it was he and his colleagues who instituted the graded method of instruction in medical schools. The speaker said that Dr. Davis and his colleagues had not received the credit that was due them for this, and that Eastern medical schools had taken the credit, although they had adopted the graded method of instruction afterwards. As a teacher he was eminent. Those who had sat at his feet and had listened to his lectures would remember as long as they lived his graphic description of disease, even in a didactic lecture. When it came to the demonstration of a case, he did not think there was any clinician abroad or in this country who could excel Dr. Davis in the matter of clinical teaching. The work of Dr. Davis was not alone confined to medical

teaching, for it was through his efforts that the American Medical Association was founded, and he is called the Father of the American Medical Association. Dr. Davis was the founder of Mercy Hospital. Dr. Davis has been president of the Illinois State Medical Society, of the Chicago Medical Society, of the American Medical Association, and the only American who was ever president of an international medical congress. Dr. Billings then dwelt at length upon some of the chief characteristics of Dr. Davis' life, among which were: "Industry, tenacity of purpose, integrity; progressiveness; liberality, a Christian gentleman."

Dr. Edward F. Wells presented the loving cup to Dr. Davis. He said:

"Honored Sir and Guests: In behalf of the medical profession of Chicago and of the whole country, it is my privilege to present to you this loving cup as a token of the esteem in which you are held by your associates, and as an expression of their appreciation of your valuable labors in the advancement of scientific, practical, academic and social medicine.

"This beautiful cup, of Grecian design, is, in its lines and proportions, a model of simple, vigorous dignity, and was selected as being peculiarly emblematic of your character and career. Engraved upon one side is an excellent likeness of yourself; upon another is the leaf of victory, and beneath it the inscription, *Palmam qui meruit ferat*—let him who has won it bear the palm—and beneath this, 'Pioneer in local and national medical organization, and in graded medical instruction;' and upon the other is this memorial tribute: 'Presented to Nathan Smith Davis, A. M., M. D., LL. D., in recognition of his long and distinguished services to medicine, in its every field of usefulness, by the members of that profession which he has so conspicuously adorned, and to whose shield he has given an added luster.'

"Few possess the creative genius necessary to initiate great forward movements in public affairs, and fewer yet are permitted to see the realization of their lofty conceptions. But you, sir, are singularly fortunate in both these respects; and, now, after these many years, you may stand before the bow of promise, supported, as it is, upon one side by the fathers of medicine, resting upon the adamantine foundations of experience and truth, and upon the other by the moderns, standing

upon the broad expanse of experiment and fact, and, looking through, view with satisfaction the fair and boundless plains of the future as they stretch out beyond."

When Dr. Davis arose to make a speech accepting the loving cup, he was greeted with loud and prolonged applause, and three hurrahs were lustily given for the venerable guest. Dr. Davis was visibly affected by the ovation, but spoke in a deliberate manner, as follows: "Mr. Toastmaster, and Fellow Members of the Medical Profession: It is useless for me to say that there are no words at my command by which I can convey my idea of the gratitude that fills my soul at the present time. If there is any particular thing that has guided my course through life, and if I have been able to contribute anything of value that justifies your presence and this most generous exhibition of your kindness and respect to me, it is from a very simple principle of action. At the age of seven years, as a boy who had never been outside of his father's farm, born in a log house, and when still in a log house, I was called to the bedside of my dying mother to receive her last words. I was the youngest of a family of seven children; I was in my seventh year. It made a vivid impression upon my mind. She was a Christian —a reader of the Bible. She said to me that she wished me to be a good boy, to learn to worship God, and to do good to my fellow-men. I promised her I would. Of course, I did not realize the importance or bearing of that promise at that early period of life; but an impression was made upon my mind, and from that day to this the rule of my life has been, that whatever comes up that seems to be important and will improve my fellow-men, my impulse is to do what I can to help it along. (Applause.) That is the whole foundation of it. I refused to undertake anything the results of which would not be beneficial to those around me, whatever it might be. The question was, Would it benefit my fellow-men? If it would, I supported it. I refused, on the other hand, to lay up enmity against any human being, and to-day I stand here and say that I know of no man or woman for whom I have an evil wish, and there is not one to whom I would not extend a helping hand at any moment if they were within my reach and needed it. (Applause.)

"On this principle of action and reading the book that my mother pointed to and taught me to read, there was revealed a habit that in old times the patriarchs often formed a convenant

with their God, and in my innocent early boyhood, as I grew on, a proposition was made for me to study medicine. I no sooner began than I formed a convenant with my Creator, that he would guide me, so that I could be qualified to do good to the sick, to alleviate human suffering, and to prolong human life. I dedicated my life to that great leading idea, and from that day to this I have striven to follow in that line.

"It was not long before I stumbled on the fact that the system of medical education was a very ridiculous one, for I went each year to the college and went over the same thing—six lectures a week, and skimmed the whole field in sixteen weeks. I thought that was very queer. I listened to these lectures every day, but studied only three of them. I left the other three for next year to make up. I made my own division. As soon as I graduated and got into practice, in about three years I was a delegate to the New York State Medical Society. The first thing I did was to introduce a series of resolutions that the term of medical education ought to be extended to not less than six months, at least, and the course of instruction should be graded. I was criticised for this, and the resolutions were promptly laid on the table. The gentleman who made the motion to lay the resolutions on the table happened to be a professor in the medical school from which I graduated. There was one man there who seconded the resolutions that were laid on the table. I hunted him out, and had an earnest conversation with him regarding the resolutions, and I said something to the effect that if this was the way they were going to serve any measures that I might bring before the convention, I should not travel by old-fashioned stage coaches from Binghamton to Albany many times to attend an association on such a basis. The professor, who introduced the resolutions, had heard the substance of our conversation, and after he had taken his dinner and the association reconvened, he moved to take the resolutions from off the table. This permitted one hour's discussion, and by means of this discussion we gained time enough to have them referred to a committee and to postpone the resolutions for renewed discussion until the following year. The next year we discussed them again, and the fight was continued until it amounted to this, that we were having a standard of education in New York as high as it was in any other medical college in the United States, and that if we undertook to make a six months' term,

graded courses, the only effect would be to send students to Boston on the one hand, and to Philadelphia on the other, and we would benefit nobody. But how were we to get out of this? If one state can not move a peg without the rest, let us have the rest, and a resolution was adopted to have a national meeting of all the institutions for that purpose. The resolution was seconded, and after a minute or two of silence, and a little laughter, it was easy for them to see that Davis did not want to fool away his time, and they said let him work. And so they passed the resolution for a national convention and appointed me chairman of the committee to carry it out. I did carry it out, and the result you know. I do not need to tell you about it; you know it; that is the secret of the story. It was not my planning; it was simply done on the principle of doing right and sticking to the right whenever an opportunity occurs. It is just so in regard to introducing any other thing that I have helped. It is simply the opportunity. I go into it, and I know no other way to accomplish it. I have no contrivance about it. It is simply to do what comes before me, and do it with all my heart. I don't want to make any half-way work of it. Dr. Billings has said that when I took hold of a thing I never let loose. Why should I? My old friend, A. B. Palmer, said once that I had been harping at the same thing for twenty years. My only answer to him was, 'If it is right and will benefit mankind, harp on it not only twenty, but forty years, until it is done.'

"My friends, I don't want to tire you by reciting details. Please accept my most cordial thanks for this demonstration. It will probably be the last time I shall have an opportunity to address you. But if you want to promote harmony, cordiality, advancement; if you want to build up, stop pulling down anybody. Never pull down, but build up, and if your neighbor does not do as you think he ought to do, talk about his good qualities, and let his bad ones go. You will soon establish harmony; you will soon have cordiality; you will have your own heart free, and your conscience will be right before your God. You will have neither enemies here nor hereafter. I know no enemies to-night; I have no enmities; I am satisfied with life.

"I am sometimes lonesome because I so rarely meet one of my early comrades—lonesome because they are gone. But I am

going to join them before long. I do not expect to tarry a great while. But I have no care about that. I live so that I am ready each day to go. I have no settlements to make; I have no great fortune to give away; I have got enough for my comforts, enough to clothe and feed me as long as I live. That is all I want. I would not die worth a hundred millions of dollars; I should be afraid I had not done my duty."

Of course it will be remembered that Dr. Davis' remarks were wholly extemporaneous, no notes whatever being used by him.

Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, of Cincinnati, was then introduced, and responded to the toast, "The American Physician."

Born to carve his name
Upon the highest pinnacle of fame.

Dr. Reed said in part: "It is appropriate that the American physician should be toasted at this festal board, around which are gathered from all parts of the great republic, American physicians who have come to honor one of their most distinguished and venerable living colleagues. To me has been assigned the pleasant task of responding to this toast. That duty would be easily discharged if I were simply to speak of the ideal characteristics of the American physician; for if I were to thus confine my remarks and speak only of birth, of education, of scientific attainments, of the lofty ideals of character, of the exemplification of Christian virtue, it would be necessary for me to only stand mutely in your presence and point to the distinguished guest of the evening. It may, however, be appropriate for us to consider the American physician from a concrete standpoint. If we were to consider him from his starting point, we must recognize the American physician at the time when the American physician was not an American physician. When, in other words, he was a distinct European product, practicing medicine upon the Western Continent. This was true in our Colonial period, but with the birth of nationality, there was also the birth of the American physician, and the establishment of the medical school in the United States was an associated incident of the creation of the American physician. But the primitive medical school of America, like the original physician that stood as the type of the faculty of that institution, was largely of exotic origin. We devoted ourselves at that time to the teaching of science as it had been discovered, taught and amplified in foreign countries.

English influence was dominant; French influence was pronounced; German influence had no footing at that time in America. But with the succeeding generations, the American physician became an established fact, a product of our schools, and we found him exemplifying, even in that early day, those attributes which have characterized the practitioner of medicine of this continent—independence of thought, independence of action, yet always in conformity with the overriding, overpowering influence of law, not statutory law, of which there was none, but of those eternal laws that make for good, that make for truth, that make for happiness. But in the carrying out of these fundamental principles the American physician early dethroned personal authority and became an actor upon a scale of independence that has but rarely characterized the profession in other countries. . . . American medicine has added to the great sum of our knowledge. Science has been evolved by those practitioners in the remoter districts and towns. McDowell, in his little village in Kentucky; Sims, in the little town in Alabama; Battey, in the little village in Georgia; Wells, with his anesthesia in the little town of New Haven—all of them far removed from the influence of the schools—brought to the light of humanity those great truths which have done so much to relieve suffering humanity and to prolong human life."

After referring to the struggle of physicians in the early days, Dr. Reed concluded as follows: "But little needs to be said for the American physician; from seaboard to seaboard, from lake to gulf, in every hamlet, he ministers to stricken humanity, and let me venture the belief that the American physician in the aggregate, wherever found, is actuated largely by those same motives, by those same deeply-rooted sentiments that Dr. Davis imbibed at the bedside of his dying mother. Let us, therefore, with all honor speak, not egotistically of ourselves, but of that great, typical character that we are constantly endeavoring to emulate, the American physician, than whom there stands before the American public, there stands before the world, no more distinguished or worthy exemplar than Nathan Smith Davis."

(Loud and prolonged applause.)

Dr. Donald Maclean, of Detroit, Mich., responded to the toast, "International Medicine."

For the whole world is a stage—
Let us hear of the acting.

He said he felt it was a great privilege to be present and take part in the exercises of the evening, and to pay his respects to his old and venerable and highly-respected friend, Dr. Davis. (Applause.) The subject of international medicine was one that reminded him of the lines written by one of the profession, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, who said:

"As Life's unending column pours,
Two marshaled hosts are seen—
Two armies on the trampled shores
That Death flows back between.
One marches to the drum-beat's roll,
The wide-mouthed clarion's bray,
And bears upon a crimson scroll,
'Our glory is to slay.'
One moves in silence by the stream,
With sad, yet watchful eyes,
Calm, as the patient planet's gleam
That walks the clouded skies.
Along its front no sabres shine,
No blood-red pennons wave;
Its banner bears the single line,
'Our duty is to save.'"

He thought the above verses represented truly and fairly international medicine. The profession could never repay Dr. Davis, nor individually express their gratitude for what he had done, and we could say with the poet, Burns:

"The bridegroom may forget the bride whom he's to wed;
The monarch may forget his crown;
The mother may forget the child that smiles so sweetly on her knee;
But I remember thee, Glencairn, and all that thou has done for me."

Reminiscences of Dr. Davis were related by Drs. John H. Hollister, Frank X. Waxham, Norman Bridge, and Edmund Andrews.

The toast, "Western Medicine," was responded to by Dr. Archibald Church, who, among other things, said: "We do not, for a moment, think of Trousseau as hampered by the walls of Paris; or Sydenham confined by the geography of London; nor Graves hampered by the purlieus of Dublin; or Flint cooped up in the Island of Manhattan; nor is Davis limited to the con-

fines of the city of Chicago. It is our privilege to-night; it is the privilege of the profession of America—nay, more, it is the privilege of the profession of the entire world—to read in the galaxy of clinical masters the name of Nathan Smith Davis."

(Loud applause.)

Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, of Ann Arbor, Mich., responded to the toast, "Medical Education."

"Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers."
How, then, can best be told
"The fairy tales of science, and the long
Result of time?"

Medical education in this country, even at its best, is in a somewhat chaotic state. He had heard a great deal about the elective system in medical education, by which the student was allowed to select courses and take them in whatever manner he chose. Most of the leading literary colleges in this country had adopted the elective system; some of the medical colleges had also adopted it. He thought it was in consonance with American ways, namely, that every young man should have his choice, and that the man beginning the study of medicine had more wisdom than the man who taught it. After referring to the advantages and disadvantages of the elective system of medical education, the peroration of Dr. Vaughan was as follows: "Honored and Most Worthy Guest: We come together to-night from near and from afar to give to you some outward token of our honor and esteem, and we have for you, who to-night has been fittingly called the Nestor of American Medicine, the greatest of respect. For more than threescore years you have labored diligently, worthily and successfully in our profession. Your life has been to us both an example and inspiration. To many here to-night and to thousands of others scattered over this broad country you have been a beloved teacher and an admired master. To all of us you have been and are still a respected older brother, and an honored friend. Your words have always fallen upon grateful ears; your deeds have ever been witnessed by approving eyes, and your friendship is cherished in many a loving heart. In our busy administrations to the sick; in our ceaseless search for truth in the laboratory, we seldom have the opportunity of expressing our appreciation for one another. But so great and so helpful has been the service that you have rendered to us, your younger

brothers, that to-night we have come, laying aside our daily tasks, to offer to you a tribute of our love and admiration. Life is a mystery which it has not been given to man to solve. We know not whence we came, nor can we name the land to which we journey. But we do know, that he who lends a helping hand to his fellow-men, as we travel along life's dusty and stony pathway, is a benefactor of his race.

"There is a Hindu legend which accounts for the origin of our profession in something like the following manner: An intelligent Indian prince in the time long ago sought one of the most renowned temples of Buddha, and prostrating himself upon the floor he prayed fervently and said, 'How can I best serve my Maker?' As he lay prostrate on the floor he felt a touch upon his shoulder as light as that of a babe, and he heard a silvery voice, saying, 'Arise!' He arose, and there stood before him a beautiful angel, who said: 'Dost thou serve thy God? And he replied, 'Yes.' 'Then, go serve thy fellow-man; administer to the sick, heal the afflicted; help those who are in distress.' And thus the medical profession had its origin. Our worthy guest to-night is almost an ideal of that Indian prince of whom this legend tells. May he have many worthy successors."

Dr. Hobart A. Hare, of Philadelphia, responded to the toast, "Literary Medicine."

The last discovered fact;
The winnowed grain of thought,
Vividly portrayed in undying characters
By the art Divine.

He said that as he sat at the table this evening he could not help thinking that he, one of the youngest, if not the youngest speaker to-night, should bring from the effete East a graceful tribute of admiration to the honored guest of the evening. He thought it was a triumph for the so-called Western profession, which, after all, was not the Western profession of the United States, for the reason that every portion of this great country had sent by mail or by wire and by personal representation some one who bore a portion at least of the loving cup to Dr. Davis.

Speaking to the toast, "Literary Medicine," he said that there was far more in it than some thought. It enabled the members of the medical profession to compare notes and ideas. It

improved the culture of men who wrote articles, and it improved the culture and learning of those, as a rule, who read those articles, but not always. In THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association we had a great exemplar of what literary medicine should be. Literary medicine was in close touch with medical education. It taught a large body of medical men to be general practitioners, and not to start out as specialists as soon as they had graduated. A great trouble with the medical profession of to-day is that there are too many men going into specialties because they knew nothing about ordinary medicine. Some one had well said: "I sought Happiness, and she constantly fled before me; weary, I turned to Duty's path, and Happiness sought me." It seemed to the speaker that Dr. Davis was a conspicuous example of that phrase. . . . We honor Dr. Davis because he represents to us professional ethics; because he represents to us duty well done; because he represents to us that greatest of all things, a great teacher; more than this, he carries with him, day by day, the thoughts of the minds and hearts of many more than are assembled here to-night, and he feels in his inner consciousness that he has achieved some things of which not only he is proud, but we are proud, and the American medical profession is proud. And therefore I repeat, as the representative of the so-called effete East, which has gained so much from the brawn and sinew of the mighty West, I come to-night to lay before you in your presence the loving tribute of our Eastern profession.

Dr. Edwin Ricketts, of Cincinnati, after referring to the good qualities of Dr. Davis, expressed the hope that he might yet be spared to see many years.

The last toast was responded to by Dr. Robert H. Babcock, of Chicago, it being, "The Physician in Public Affairs."

"For who is better fitted to study and correct the pathologic body politic?"

The speaker thought it was strange that physicians should be loth to enter politics lest they became defiled thereby, but he held that there was no class of individuals in the community who were so suitable to engage in public affairs as physicians. In the words of the toast, "Who is so suitable to study and correct the pathologic body politic?" Let the physician enter the field of politics, that he may curette away the part that is rotten. There was an ample field for the influence of medical men in

a quiet way in political campaigns. We had an example of this in Kentucky, where the physicians throughout the State, by exerting their influence in a quiet way upon the politicians of the State, had rendered it impossible for a quack to practice or to advertise in the State of Kentucky. All honor to the State of Kentucky. He said we had among us some members of the medical profession who were engaged in political matters for the purpose of bringing about proper legislation along the right lines to curtail the so-called practice of medicine by quacks, charlatans, faith-healers, etc. There was ample room for the influence of physicians. But even if the physician had some ambition to hold office, it was right that he should, provided that his motives were pure. Physicians were needed in legislatures, not to support anti-vivisection laws, like Senator Gallinger, but to fight anti-vivisection laws, to fight anti-vaccination laws, and to obtain legislation for the benefit of public health. Perhaps the most brilliant example of the physician in politics is Rudolph Virchow. What shall we say of our great American physician, Benjamin Rush? He was not only a great physician, but he was a member of the Continental Congress, and chairman of the committee appointed to consider the expediency of the Declaration of Independence. He had the honor of reporting favorably upon the Declaration, and it is thought that many of the phrases used in the Declaration of Independence emanated from Rush. Had he not won undying renown as a physician, he would have been immortal as a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The speaker said that there had been others and were others to-day who were engaged in public affairs not only with credit to themselves, but with honor to the medical profession, and to the welfare of their State. Some of these occupied comparatively insignificant positions, perhaps, but they were doing good work.

Dr. Babcock, after referring to the good work that had been done by Dr. Davis in public affairs, concluded by saying: "As an alumnus of the old Chicago Medical College, I call on you to rise, and, in that beverage which Dr. Davis loves and has continued to pledge his life, drink to his health."

At this juncture the entire audience arose, put the glasses to their lips, and, after the following sentiment expressed by Dr. Davis, drank to his health: "Pure water, Nature's universal aseptic; it disorders no man's brain; it fills no asylums or

prisons; it begets no anarchy, but it sparkles in the dew-drop, it glows in the peaceful rainbow, and flows in the river of life close by the throne of God. Let us take it, not only as guests here, but for the whole profession of America."

Many highly complimentary letters were read from members of the profession not able to attend.

The audience then arose and sang "Auld Lang Syne."

CHAPTER XIV

Religious and Church Life; Last Days.

On his mother's side, Nathan Smith Davis was a "hereditary" Christian. We have already spoken of that pathetic death-bed scene, when his dying mother charged him to "be a good boy and read the Bible," and we have had occasion to observe, again and again, how deeply these solemn words impressed the child, then but seven years old, and how closely he followed the maternal injunction in after life. It seems very clear, from all the information obtainable, that young Davis' mother was not only a deeply religious woman, but also a woman of more than ordinary ability, and that she was largely blessed with the supreme gift of "common sense," an endowment which young Nathan had the happiness to inherit, in large degree.

Just how he passed his early childhood we do not certainly know, nor do we know what religious influences may, or may not, have been thrown around him during those early years, but when he was sixteen years of age, he attended a single term of the Cazenovia Academy, an excellent school, under the care of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In those days the denominational schools, and especially those schools which were under the charge of the "Evangelical" churches, made strenuous efforts to secure the "conversion" of their students, and their enrollment as members of the church with which the school was affiliated. It is very probable that young Davis may have been persuaded to embrace the Christian religion formally, after his arrival at Cazenovia, but we have no evidence on that point, pro or con. But the whole atmosphere of the school was a religious one, and the doctrine of, and necessity for "experimental" religion, was insisted upon with far more emphasis than it is at the present day.

But whatever the explanation may be, it is certain that our Cazenovia student joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at that place, and that he remained an active member of that denomination through his entire life. When he went to Binghamton to practice medicine, he transferred his membership to the Methodist Church in that town; when he went from Binghamton to New York City, with the expectation of spending his days there, he transferred his church membership to New York. When, in 1849, he removed his residence to Chicago, he at once joined the First

Methodist Church of Chicago, at the southeast corner of Clark and Washington streets, as his residence was then adjacent to that church. A few years later he removed to Wabash avenue near the Wabash Avenue Methodist Church, which he joined by transfer from the First Church. After a few more years, he transferred his residence and church membership to Evanston, and lastly when he returned to the city, and took up his residence on the North Side of Chicago, he brought his church letter and joined the Grace M. E. Church, of which he was a member until he joined the Church Triumphant, from whence no one has ever been known to ask for a transfer. Such are the cold and formal facts in regard to Dr. Davis' church membership, covering a period of 70 years, but they tell nothing in regard to his religious life, its activities, its self-denials, its philanthropies, and, above all, its deep, although undemonstrative, spiritual experiences.

Christianity assumes different types or forms in different individuals. Some Christians have deeply emotional lachrymal glands, but very unsympathetic check books; others are quite accessible by the check book route, but have no use for the church or its institutions; others are profoundly stirred over the miseries of the heathen of Borrioboola-Gha, but are quite oblivious of the weak and hungry orphans under their very noses, and there are plenty of putative Christians who "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," but are very unholy from Monday morning till Saturday night. Dr. Davis belonged to none of these classes; his whole life was a religious life, but it was an every-day religion that did not wilt or wither when exposed to the attrition of daily contact with the world and its people. It did not require the stimulus of a periodical "revival" to keep his religion from dying of inanition. He was neither subject to spiritual plethora or spiritual anæmia. He was eminently successful as a Sunday School teacher, especially during his residence in Evanston, where university and theological students flock from all parts of the country. It used to be the special delight of these bright and scholarly young men to get themselves enrolled in Dr. Davis' Sunday School class, and I have been told that he had at one time the largest Bible class that was ever gathered in Evanston, a place so famous for its students of Biblical lore. I have also been informed that his knowledge of the scriptures, and especially of the Old Testament canon, was singularly broad and comprehensive. Of course, if he tried expounding the Bible at all, it need not be said that it was done exhaustively and thoroughly. The admirable address of the late Bishop Merrill at the Memorial Service noted elsewhere* gives a thorough analysis of Dr. Davis' religious belief, and it may be regarded as authoritative, as the Bishop knew him intimately.

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*Vide Chapter XV.

The benevolent enterprises of the church, both home and foreign, received his systematic support, for Dr. Davis' "conversion" included his head, his heart and his pocket.

It is hard to frame a just estimate of such a Christian, for language has its limits, and the mind of man soon gets beyond its depth, when it tries to measure the possibilities of the soul of man; but there is something wonderfully inspiring and exalting in the contemplation of the calm, constant, unswerving Christian life of Dr. N. S. Davis.

With the close of the final session of the fiftieth anniversary of the *American Medical Association* in Philadelphia in May, 1897—the so-called "Jubilee Meeting"—Dr. Davis' public life practically came to an end. He was then eighty years old, and the infirmities incident to age were creeping upon him. He returned to Chicago, resumed his office practice, but practically withdrew from public life, and to a large extent from active life. He made three or four brief extemporaneous addresses, like the one delivered at a complimentary banquet and printed in a preceding chapter, but his activities were mainly confined to his office, and an occasional lecture before the students of the Northwestern University Medical School. In June, 1898, he sent in his resignation as Dean of the Medical School, and thereafter sustained an "emeritus" relation only, so that he could be relieved of the active work. About this time he tried to resign his position as Senior Physician to Mercy Hospital, but as Sister-Superior Raphael says, "I would not let him." Most of us teachers of a bygone age had easier times resigning our positions than did Dr. Davis. Oliver Wendell Holmes said somewhere that "to take things easy is one of the prerogatives of old age," and this is just what Dr. Davis did, comparatively speaking, but in that sense only. As compared with the intense activity which characterized nearly all his life, his last three or four years might seem like "taking things easy"; but as compared with the lives of most post-octogenarians, *his* life would not conform to the ideal of the genial Autocrat of the Breakfast Table.

The venerable doctor was a very much respected—nay, revered—man in Chicago during his last few years. His neat, trim but quaint figure always attracted notice, and he was slyly pointed out to strangers, as he took his daily walk to and from his office. Always dressed in sober black, inseparable from his old-fashioned "dress" coat, and tall silk hat—the coat and hat of the "gentleman" of by-gone days—he was a character and a personality to attract notice and command respect.

As he looked back over his long and busy life; as he surveyed his work and its splendid results; as the retrospect of his frequent and sturdy contests in the interests of higher education of medical students, and of pure

morals, and of religion "pure and undefiled," and in uncompromising opposition to alcohol in all its forms, did there ever appear before him the figure of the lonely little boy, and the gloomy log house, and the environing

Yours Truly
N. S. Davis

The last picture of Dr. Davis, taken in 1904 a few weeks before his death.

forest, where this venerable and venerated man began his heroic and wonderful career?

On Saturday, June 4, 1904, Dr. Davis went to his office at his regular time, and in apparently his usual health; he attended to his patients until

the last one had been received and dismissed, and then slowly walked to his residence, on Huron street, for the last time. The "harp of a thousand strings" could be kept "in tune" no longer. The weary heart faltered in its work, after nearly ninety years of unintermitting service; the circulation gradually failed, respiration became difficult, a short period of angina pectoris, relieved in great measure by chloroform and morphia, and the end came on the morning of Thursday, June 16, 1904, after about ten days of the uneventful decline of what it is entirely correct and proper to call a normal and perfectly healthy senility. The vital organism was exhausted; Dr. Davis' work was done.

The span of his earthly life was eighty-seven years, five months and seven days. What of his future?

> "Death cannot claim the immortal mind,
> Let earth close o'er its sacred trust,
> Yet goodness dies not in the dust."

His funeral occurred on Saturday, June 19, 1904, at the family residence, 291 Huron street, Chicago. The services, which were brief and simple, were in charge of Rev. John Thompson, pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Chicago, of which Dr. Davis was an active and loyal member. The honorary pall-bearers were: Drs. John Hamilcar Hollister, William E. Quine, John E. Owens, Emilius C. Dudley, Frank Billings, Frank S. Johnson, (all colleagues or former colleagues of Dr. Davis in the faculty of Northwestern University Medical School), and Messrs. William Deering, Frank C. Crandon and James B. Hobbs, fellow trustees of Northwestern University, and intimate friends of the deceased. The active pall-bearers were: Drs. J. D. Kales, W. R. Kales, Albert M. Kales, Frances H. Kales, Frank H. Davis and J. Dorr Bradley, all grandsons of the doctor.

There was no music, and the whole service, to which only family friends and the intimate professional and other associates of Dr. Davis were invited, was simple in the extreme. In fact, the funeral services over the remains of Dr. Davis, were emblematic of the man, entirely devoid of ceremony or ritualistic elaboration. At the conclusion of the service, the remains were conveyed to the beautiful necropolis of Rose Hill, and the words of the preacher were again fulfilled, "the dust returneth to the earth as it was, and the spirit returneth unto God, who gave it."

The death of Dr. Davis was no occasion for mourning or sadness. It was rather the occasion for the outpouring of gratitude and congratulation on the part of his surviving brethren of the medical profession, that a character so perfect and faultless, and that an intellect of such grand pro-

portions, had adorned and honored the profession through a life so long and fruitful.

The farewell declaration of the Great Apostle to the Gentiles would have been equally appropriate from the lips of the Great Apostle of educational and temperance reform: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me in that day."

CHAPTER XV.

Memorial Service.

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 23, 1904, the Chicago Medical Society held a memorial service in Powers' Theater, Chicago, in respectful remembrance of an aged, honored, but departed member of the society, Dr N. S. Davis. He was one of the founders, was the oldest member at the time of his death, and was chiefly instrumental in keeping the organization alive for a considerable time following the great fire of 1871. For well-nigh half a century he had attended its meetings with remarkable regularity, had been its President, and was constantly consulted as to the management and policy of the society. He had furnished several papers of great value, and was a regular and active participant in the discussions of the various subjects which came before its meetings. No member of the Chicago Medical Society was ever more universally beloved and respected than Dr. Davis. It was peculiarly fitting and appropriate, therefore, that the medical profession of Chicago and vicinity, as embodied in the Chicago Medical Society, should pay the highest honors, and the deepest respect, to this, their most eminent member, now no more.

The memorial service was deeply impressive. A large audience gathered, and it was a representative audience. All classes were there; all professions were there; in fact, it was a spontaneous outpouring of respect and homage from the people, to the great man they had known so long and well.

But the gathering of the professional brethren of the deceased was a remarkable feature. They were there in great numbers, not as mourners; there was no occasion for mourning; true an elder brother had fallen, full of years, full of honors, but he had left a great name and a spotless character, and the occasion was rather one for rejoicing and thanksgiving, than for gloom and sadness.

The services were simple, but singularly apt and appropriate. There were two great addresses, each one by a great and deservedly eminent man. The first one was by that justly and highly respected prelate, Rev. John Lancaster Spalding, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peoria, on "The Physician's Calling and Education," which we reproduce entire, except in so far as it relates to personal and historical matter, which appear in earlier chapters. The address is as follows:

I have hope and wish that the nobler sort of physicians will advance their thoughts, and not employ their time wholly in the sordidness of cures; neither be honored for necessity only; but that they will become coadjutors and instruments of the divine omnipotence and clemency in prolonging and renewing the life of man.—Bacon.

Love for true, wise and heroic men and women is part of our love of life, which is a craving for more perfect and abundant life. They show us how blessed a thing it is to be a genuine man. They confirm our faith in the worth and sacredness of conscious existence, and make our standards of value real and palpable. They convince us that within and beneath and beyond all that appears is the creative Spirit who knows and loves and is good. They make it plain that he has not lost his cunning, but is still with us as he was with our fathers of old. They give us confidence that life shall not be emptied of its spiritual content; that a race which has learned to believe and hope, to think and do, can not descend into the sloughs of sensual indulgence and there lie in brutish indifference. What no one has done we imagine can never be done, and these sages and heroes reveal to us new possibilities. When they appear a new quality of life diffuses itself. They may do what all the world is doing, but it is not the same. They breathe a purer air, they are uplifted and borne on by higher thoughts and diviner impulses; they need not money nor recognition nor any kind of worldly success to make them our benefactors and masters. In their presence financiers, inventors and battle-winners dwindle. These deal with life's circumstances; they drink at the eternal fountain-head. Mental and moral force, like the physical, propagates itself, and the influence of the wise and good is transmitted to ever-enlarging circles. To hear of great achievements is to feel a new impulse to fresh resolve. We gain from them a higher conception of the meaning of life, and of the marvels that lie within the reach of whoever has faith and industry. So a noble man, though dead, still lives for those who knew him or get tidings of him, and he is often more helpful so, than when he moved in bodily presence. So long as there are those who meditate and love the lives of noble and just men, the race of noble and just men can not perish.

Thanks to God who makes us and to the human heart by which we live, such men are found everywhere. Neither learning nor wealth nor high place is required that they may exist. Their

power springs from within where great thoughts, high aims and loving dispositions are born and nourished. They may or may not have genius or fame. They may dwell in solitude or mingle with the restless crowds that pour through the thoroughfares of populous cities; they may be of exalted or of humble birth; they may follow the plow or sway the minds of listening multitudes. Their worth lies in themselves—in the spirit in which they act—and not in the circumstances by which they are environed. Whatever their worldly fortune, they are true to their deepest insight, pure in mind and heart, modest, unenvious, free from vanity, from the desire to shine and to become a theme for idle tongues, consenting to be made conspicuous only at the command of duty, happy in the good they can do, not in the praise or the money they receive, holding themselves aloof from controversy and intrigue, intent on their own improvement and that of the environment in which their lot is cast, and rejoicing when leisure is given them to take refuge from the cares and labors their business or profession involves and imposes in the solitude and obscurity where best opportunity is afforded to grow in wisdom and in freedom.

Thoughts like these spring unbidden when we turn to the character and work of him to do honor to whose memory we have come together. He was fortunate in the circumstances of his life, but more fortunate in having within himself something higher and worthier than circumstances can provide. He was one of the happy and hardy band who are born where Nature holds her primal sway and challenges the soul to become itself; who from their earliest days are brought face to face with what is great and abiding, with the solid earth and the heavens made glorious by the rising and setting sun or beautiful by the waxing or waning moon, or sublime and awful by the intermingling mystic light of countless stars; who dwell with the changing seasons until all their thoughts and dreams are enriched and colored by the radiance and freshness of spring, by the abounding fragrant wealth of summer, by autumn's splendor and tranquillity, and by winter's white purity and crisp energy; who, felling trees or feeding kine, store for themselves a treasure-house of courage and firm resolve whence they may draw rich nourishment through all the coming years of toil and struggle. There is iron in their blood and the full, deep throb of conquering strength in their pulse-beat. Thrown back on Nature and on themselves, they

are made aware of the almightiness of God revealing itself in both. It is he who, tossing the celestial orbs, as a child its toys, bids them spin forever in abyssal space; it is he who lifts the oceans on high and scatters them over the thirsty earth as a gardener waters his flowers. No man nor all the race of man has made the world in which these young souls live and are exalted and urged to high thoughts and deeds. * * *

There is nothing in the history of the nineteenth century for which we may be more justly or profoundly thankful than for the rapid and wonderful advance made in the knowledge of the causes and cures of disease. From the time men began to think, they began to consider how sickness and death might be, if not overcome, at least mitigated or postponed; nor was their thinking altogether vain or profitless. The Egyptians and the Hebrews, still more the Greeks and the Romans, arrived at some insight into the laws of health and the treatment of disease. Hippocrates and Galen are great names, but their value for us is historic, not scientific. Hippocrates was born 400 years before Christ, and from that date to about the middle of the nineteenth century there was relatively but little progress in medicine. Here and there, indeed, we meet with physicians or surgeons of special ability or skill. Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood in the seventeenth century was important. Sydenham, by his insistence on the necessity of careful observation and on the healing power of Nature, rendered valuable service. In the eighteenth century Boerhaave, whose fame was probably greater than that of any physician who has ever lived, whose attainments were as surpassing as his character was benevolent and pure, contributed nothing of an essential importance to the science of medicine.

The most important contribution to medical progress in the eighteenth century was made by Jenner, when, in 1796, he introduced vaccination as a prevention of smallpox; for he not only discovered the means by which one of the worst scourges has been practically eliminated, but he opened the paths along which the most wonderful advance has been made. When Dr. John Hunter, whose pupil he was, said to him, "Do not think, investigate!" he announced the opening of a new era in medical history. The starting point was the systematic employment of scientific methods of research. Experiment as the best means of arriving at accurate knowledge is not a discovery of the nine-

teenth century, but the nineteenth century provided facilities and laboratories for scientific investigation, and so made it possible for medical students to observe, analyze and determine with precision the functions and conditions of the organs and tissues of the body in health, their pathologic changes, the causes of disease and the means of prevention or cure. The result was that in the nineteenth century medicine became a new science, which made most of what had been taught in the past a mere curiosity of literature. All the vital organs, all the phenomena of life, were examined in the scientific spirit, and as knowledge grew it was perceived that a single organ might afford sufficient matter for the study of a lifetime.

Many physicians consequently limited their field of investigation to the diseases of special organs, or to the diseases of women or of children, and to the labors of these specialists is due much of the progress which has been made in the ascertainment of fact and in the best methods of treatment. The greatest medical triumphs were won in the realm of the infinitesimal beings that, unseen, swarm and multiply within and about us everywhere. Bacteriology was born of the philosophic doubt, which for ages had engaged the attention of acute minds concerning the origin of life. Is the living born of the dead? For centuries the weight of opinion had inclined to give an affirmative answer, so far, at least, as the lowest organisms are concerned. The theory of spontaneous generation prevailed far into the nineteenth century. It seemed, indeed, to be an implication of the theory of evolution which tended more and more to take possession of the modern mind. It would have supplied the missing link in the chain of causation. Hence in scientific minds there was a bias toward its acceptance. It adapted itself to the pantheistic or materialistic world views which were gaining wider and wider acceptance. To doubt its truth was to retrograde. But the brutal fact established by scientific experiment showed the hypothesis to be a delusion, that the plain truth is that whatever has life is born of the living. Pasteur, probably the greatest benefactor of the human race in the nineteenth century, proved in 1861 and again in 1876, that the theory of spontaneous generation is without foundation in fact, and contrary to all the evidence which scientific research can adduce. The consequence was that bacteriology became a science, and the causes of all the phenomena, whether of health or of disease, began to be sought for in the activities of living

organisms, the smallest known, and belonging for the most part to the vegetable kingdom. They upbuild and they break down all the larger forms of life. They are the mighty armies on whose banners is inscribed the axiom, "Who despiseth small things shall little by little be brought to ruin."

Bacteriology has furnished a solid basis for preventive medicine, which has conferred and is capable of conferring more and more as its principles receive wider application, benefits on mankind, that make the triumphs of industrialism of minor importance.

More than 250 years ago, Descartes, the most original mind of the modern age, who, more than any other thinker, has determined the course both of speculative and of scientific inquiry, declared that if any great improvement in the condition of mankind was to be brought about, medicine would provide the means, and what he foresaw we see. The discovery that nearly all the worst diseases which afflict the human race are due to the action of minute organisms directed the attention of educated physicians to the exclusion of these organisms, or, if this be impossible, to investigations which should show how their baneful action might be prevented. The cause which creates a disease being known, the physician's business is to learn how to remove it or to neutralize its effects. Bacteriology has revealed to us the infinitesimal organisms that produce many of the gravest maladies to which man is subject—Asiatic cholera, diphtheria, typhoid fever, typhus fever, yellow fever, smallpox, the bubonic plague, tuberculosis, pneumonia, hydrophobia, leprosy, venereal diseases, puerperal fever and malaria. These are all germ diseases which it is possible to prevent or cure. Some have ceased to be a cause of alarm to the civilized nations—smallpox, for instance, Asiatic cholera, typhus fever, the bubonic plague and puerperal fever. When vaccination is rightly employed, smallpox wholly disappears. When filth and overcrowding are abolished, where there is good sewerage and pure drinking water, typhus fever, Asiatic cholera, yellow fever and diphtheria will hardly be found. The bubonic plague has no terrors for the peoples of Europe and America. Puerperal fever, which formerly destroyed each year the most precious lives of thousands of mothers, is now almost unknown, the mortality from this cause being only about .07 per cent. Physicians themselves carrying the infectious germs from

bedside to bedside were the agents of death, which ignorant and heedless physicians are always in danger of becoming.

When it became scientifically certain that many of the worst diseases are produced by bacteria, it was plain that the principal occupation of the physician and surgeon should be concerned with the exclusion of poisonous germs or with the means by which their baneful action might be suppressed. This led to the employment of antiseptics and antitoxins. The miracles of modern surgery are due not so much to the superior skill of our operators as to their knowledge of the means by which inflammation and suppuration may be prevented. Sepsis is a Greek word which means putrefaction, and antisepsis is the science and art of preventing putrefactive processes. The appalling death rate following surgical operations thirty or forty years ago, is not to be ascribed to imperfect anatomic knowledge or lack of manual skill, but to infection caused by disease-producing germs which, introduced into the body by contact with the air or with any object whatever, in which they had not been destroyed, multiply and sow the seeds of death with incredible rapidity. Asepsis, based on the germ theory of infectious diseases, now enables the surgeon to operate with comparatively small risk in cases in which formerly the dread of some form of blood poisoning deterred him from attempting to save his patient. Surgery has consequently become a new and most beneficent art, anesthesia rendering the operation painless, while asepsis excludes infection. The progress of pathology and therapy, if less striking, is not less real, and will doubtless in the next quarter of a century overshadow the triumphs of surgery. The field in which it works is vaster, and its methods reach deeper, touching the roots of the ills from which relief is sought. The living body has within itself a greater or lesser power to resist the attacks of the foes to health, and there have never been lacking practitioners or schools to teach that in the treatment of disease the chief reliance is in the healing force of nature. The blood and tissues, in their normal state, have a germicidal efficacy which varies with the special diatheses of individual constitutions. There are vigorous natures which seem to have the power of resisting the action of all poison-producing bacilli, while others afford no hold to certain specific germs. In our cities the bacteria of tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza are in the air and are inhaled by all, but fortunately they find a suitable lodging place in but comparatively

few. Then there is in the blood a regular army of white cells or leucocytes, whose function is to repel and destroy the intruding enemy. They are the divinely appointed defenders of life's fortress, to whom the secret of Nature's medicinal power is entrusted. They change or neutralize the toxins generated by the poison germs, and elaborate antitoxins; and when the victory has been gained and recovery has taken place, the patient has acquired at least a temporory immunity from the disease which has been eradicated. Insight into this fact has led to the discovery and employment of serum therapy, whose efficiency has wrought a transformation in medical practice, and promises, as knowledge grows, yet greater things. In one who has had the smallpox the conditions which favor the spread of the poison have been destroyed. The question suggests itself whether by introducing into the system the specific poison in a milder form, equal immunity may not be acquired. This methodical doubt led Pasteur to the discovery of serum therapy, which by the injection of the serum of the infected blood prevents or cures the disease. Its efficacy in the treatment of diphtheria, hydrophobia and various diseases of animals has already been abundantly proven, and there is good reason to believe that the research of specialists will enlarge the field of its prophylactic or curative power, until it shall be universally recognized as the opening of a new epoch in the history of medical science and practice, an epoch in which new and accurate knowledge of the causes and nature of disease shall lead to new and efficacious methods of prevention or treatment. Drugs will not be discarded, but their action will be scientifically investigated and confidence in their therapeutic value will diminish.

It was Dr. Davis' good fortune to begin the study of medicine when this great transformation was about to take place; and, like the good, wise and far-seeing man he was, he understood that the physician could no longer be permitted to be but an empiric.

* * *

"The essence of greatness is the perception that virtue is enough," says Emerson in his fine way. Perception, indeed, is not and can not be the essence of anything, but he who has insight into the fact that the end of life is moral, is conduct and character, understands wherein the essence of greatness consists. It lies, like the kingdom of heaven, within. Title, office, possessions may or may not be its accompaniments. Vast knowledge even gives no assurance of its presence; for it is what a man be-

lieves, hopes, loves, admires, yearns for and does rather than what he knows. Only they whose existence is upborne and illumined by a high and holy purpose are interesting or have intrinsic value. The rest are busy with what they shall eat and wear, with how they shall be housed and attended, and pass their existence on the low plain of appetite and vain desire. Dr. Davis was more than a learned and skillful physician; he was a genuine man filled with religious and moral fervor and zeal. He might have grown rich, but he died poor. He felt like Agassiz, that he had no time to get money. Had he possessed the wealth of the founders of universities, his chief significance and value would still have lain in himself—in his rectitude of purpose, in his desire to teach men how to live, in the simplicity and honesty of his life, in his love of truth and justice, in his high-mindedness, purity and benevolence, in his freedom from envy, jealousy and pettiness.

In every profession there are men without principle or character who prefer success to virtue, whose predominant passion is greed, who to get money are ready to prey on the weakness and miseries of their fellows, who, like the ghouls that gather wherever great calamities befall, consider the helplessness and sufferings of their fellows but opportunities for plunder; and since a man is willing to give all he possesses for health, and since whoever can pay can advertise, the healing art offers the most inviting field for these hyenas in human shape; and therefore the medical profession, more than law and quite as much as the sacred ministry, is most commended and honored by men who to scientific attainments add the essential and abiding worth of moral character. If it be true that an orator is first of all a good man, one who inspires confidence, who is himself more eloquent than words can be, it is also true that a physician should first of all be a man of moral worth, of principle, of probity, of honor, of benignity and heroic unselfishness. If confidence in him as a man be lacking, the wise will hesitate to put trust in the exercise of his professional knowledge and skill; and confidence is half the cure, since in his power to inspire hope, a cheerful and brave spirit, lies, in most cases, the secret of a physician's success. Boerhaave, whose reputation surpasses that of all other physicians, to whom letters addressed "to the most famous physician of Europe" were sure to be delivered, wrought, it is said, more cures by his presence than by his remedies. However great one's science or skill, the foundation of the trust we place in him must

be laid by his moral worth. Knowledge does not of itself determine will or form character, and one may know many things and be only the greater villain.

The trend of the most recent theory and practice in education is to lay chief stress on intellectual ability and technical skill, and to hold lightly the convictions of those who are persuaded that human life is essentially conduct, and that the everlasting fountain-head by which right doing is fed by religious faith, which alone can build the foundation of a rational belief in the absolute worth and sacredness of man, as revealed by his origin and destiny.

The ideal is that of the calculating understanding in the service of the senses. Get money, and whatever is desirable shall be thine. Succeed, by fair or foul means, and the world will do thee homage. Make thyself able, strong and skillful, and thou shalt have small need of virtue.

Dr. Davis was a lover of knowledge, a life-long student, a chief promoter of medical organization in this country, and the tireless, persuasive advocate of the need in his own profession of higher and more thorough education. His mind was vigorous and alert, his intellectual curiosity drew him ceaselessly to scientific inquiry, his temper was judicial, his power of diagnosis was exceptional; but his religious, virtuous life, his sobriety, his tolerance, his largeness of thought and sympathy, his independence, his sense of justice, his desire to be of help, his fearlessness in the assertion and maintenance of right, his indefatigable zeal for the promotion of temperance and morality—his character—gave him a distinction which belongs to but few in any profession. He himself is greater than his reputation. "The chief need," says Seneca, "is of great teachers." Dr. Davis was a great teacher, and, like all teachers of essential vital truths, his highest lessons are taught by his life more than by his words.

In the midst of the crowd of adventurers, of the rabble of fortune seekers, in which he found himself when first he came to Chicago, he walked the narrow path among them like a ministering spirit, but not of them; and when the town of twenty thousand had grown to be a city of a million and a half of inhabitants, he, where all had changed, remained steadfast, true to God, to himself and to the service of his fellow-men, faithful to the old principles which assert religion, conduct and character to be the aim and end of life. For him duty is a divine impulse,

and honor, the finest sense of duty. The patient who called him became as sacred in his eyes as is the penitent in the presence of the priest. What he learned was as though he knew it not. The body is not separate from the soul, and like it, is sacred. He who ministers to the infirmities of the one, helps the other. The physician and the priest are near kin, and in all ages have been held to be so, though like near kin they have had their quarrels. Both recognize that moral good is the essential good; that if men had but virtue enough, they would have health and happiness enough.

Progress in etiology and diagnosis has confirmed the belief that the root of evil lies not in the stars, but in ourselves.

Men are most prone to lie to themselves, and most willing to be lied to, when there is question of their health and morals. They will lay their infirmities and faults to anything in the wide universe but themselves. Whether there is question of medicine or of religion, their unwillingness or inability to employ the right preservatives or remedies lies in their unwillingness or inability to lead right lives. We make ourselves the victims of greed, lust, gluttony, drunkenness, envy and hate, and find what comfort we may in denouncing doctors and priests. And doctors and priests, who, if they are not better, are worse than laymen, are forever tempted to palter, to flatter, lacking the courage to unveil truth to the easily shocked eyes of lechers, drunkards, gluttons, thieves and tricksters, if, having money and position, they can make or mar. They are forever tempted to prove false to their deepest knowledge and insight, to compromise where compromise is betrayal, to indulge where indulgence is ruin, to administer palliatives when there is no hope but in radical change. This false and cowardly attitude undermines character, confuses knowledge, and destroys the power to inspire confidence in those who are ill that they shall be made whole.

In the presence of the all-pervading self-indulgence and self-deceit which lust and pride and greed beget, we are made conscious of the transcendent worth of a man like Dr. Davis.

In him the average sensual man, who is every man, can find little comfort. He sees the fact and speaks plain. Between him and the possibility of quackery there lie infinite worlds. Between him and the expert who values his professional ability chiefly for its power to exact large fees, there lie infinite worlds. Between him and the crowd of the prosperous, who believe that

a man is worth not what he is, but what he possesses, there lie infinite worlds.

Into the valley of the Mississippi, made fat and fertile by the slow but ceaseless action of natural forces during epochs of indefinable length, there has come suddenly a race, provided with the highest religious, moral and scientific power, a race of exceptional vigor and of most fortunate historic experience. In brief time we have developed here a material civilization whose wealth and promise is a world-wonder. What hitherto it had taken thousands of years to bring about, has been accomplished in half a century. But we ourselves have not grown as our prosperity has increased. We have succumbed to our success. We have vast riches, and all the comfort, luxury and display which money provides, but our thoughts are superficial, our sympathies shallow, our desires selfish or sensual, our aims and ambitions vulgar.

Like those who, in the midst of unending waters, die of thirst, we, having all that earth's bounty can give, have lost the secret and the art of leading a worthy and a happy life, because we have ceased to be either willing or able to believe that souls live by faith, hope, love and imagination, in the light of high ideals, and in the glow and warmth of self-devotion to what is forever true, and good and fair. We measure human worth by mechanical standards, the value of life by the opportunities it affords for the indulgence of appetite or vanity. We are feverish, restless, timid and uncertain. In our very strength and energy there seems to be something akin to disease. We can neither work nor play in moderation. The wisdom of those who are content with what suffices is in our eyes folly. Hence it is easy for us to become gamblers, promoters, givers or takers of bribes, drunkards, and suicides; and in the midst of the dazzling spectacle of our national progress, it is a question whether our millionaires or our toiling, hard-driven wage-earners, are more discontented and unhappy.

With us everything improves—mechanical devices, the breeds of domestic animals, the qualities of vegetables and fruits—man alone is stationary or retrograde, because his nature, being essentially moral and religious, the worship of vulgar success, the indulgence of appetite, the preference of the external and transitory to the real abiding world within, make religion and morality impossible.

From the midst of such a world, a man like Dr. Davis rises, like one inspired, to proclaim by word and deed, that righteousness is life, that the wages of sin is death, that whatsoever thing a man soweth that shall he reap, that sin or culpable ignorance or neglect, which is sin, is the cause of nearly all the diseases, ills and miseries by which we are brought to ruin.

To the learned professions especially, his teaching and his example declare that they rest not more on a basis of knowledge and skill, than on a foundation of principle, honor and benevolence. His view is generous and comprehensive. Not for his clients alone does the lawyer exist, nor for his penitents, the priest; nor for his patients, the physician.

God makes sages and saints that they may be fountain-heads of wisdom and virtue for all who yearn and aspire; and whoever has superior knowledge or ability is thereby committed to more effectual and unselfish service of his fellow-men. If the love of fame be but an infirmity of noble minds, the craving for professional reputation is but conceit and vanity. To be of help, and to be of help not to mere animals, but to immortal, pure, loving spirits—this is the noblest earthly fate, this, the highest good fortune. In the light of this ideal Dr. Davis believed, hoped, loved, worked, suffered, died and triumphed. When the politicians, the captains of industry, the inventors of mechanical devices, the lavishers of millions to promote whatever ends, shall have sunk into oblivion or be remembered with the contempt of indifference, he shall remain as a witness to right human life, as an influence and encouragement to all who have faith in God, in truth, in justice, in plain, unselfish living, in brave endeavor, in purity and love; a principle of hope and courage, an inextinguishable light to beings who wander amid the labyrinths of time and space, and feel and are certain that their true home is with the Eternal Father who makes and upbears the Universe that beings like unto Himself may be born and grow forever.

Before the Royal College of Surgeons of London, there is delivered an address, each year, to commemorate the life and work of John Hunter. Let the physicians and the medical schools of Chicago bear witness to their love of worth and appreciation of excellence, by making a similar foundation to perpetuate the memory of Nathan Smith Davis.

The second address was by the late Rev. Stephen M. Merrill, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Dr. Davis was a member for more than seventy years. Bishop Merrill knew Dr. Davis intimately; in fact, they were a couple of congenial spirits, while they were yet in the flesh, and who shall say that they are not far more congenial, now that they are disburdened of their tenements of clay? Bishop Merrill's address is peculiarly appropriate, because it is an authoritative declaration of Dr. Davis' religious views and faith. That portion of the address which simply states facts relating to Dr. Davis' personal and professional history that have been embodied in previous chapters, is omitted; otherwise it is quoted verbatim:

> The honored practice of pronouncing eulogies for the departed is ancient and well nigh universal. It accords well with the better instincts of our natures, and no doubt originated in impulses of the heart which are in themselves noble and ennobling. It makes us better men to think well of those who have been with us and have gone away, and it cannot and should not be pleasant to hear words of censure or disparagement spoken of any who have left us. The injunction to speak nothing but good of the dead is the mandate of nature—the formulation in words of a sentiment which flows spontaneously from hearts unbiased by passion.
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> It is a blessed thing when the lives of our friends whose absence we mourn, have been such that, when recalled in memory, they afford material for pleasant thoughts and approving words. Such lives never leave us. They abide with us in hallowed association, as cherished ideals, and as uplifting incentives to lofty aims and heroic endurance.
>
> There is something beautiful in the fact that in our thoughts of the dead we instinctively turn to the better qualities of their lives, and find pleasure only in the good things we can recall. We should deem it a mark of degeneracy in ourselves if we could find comfort in remarking or emphasizing the defects, or vices, or deformities of any sort, that might be discovered by critical analysis, or by inordinate searching for them in the imperfect knowledge we possess of the motives and actions of those who have fought their battles and finished their courses. As "charity covers a multitude of sins," so does the normal human heart spread this mantle over the imperfections of those who have gained life's goal in advance of us.

We owe it to our friends who have gone to speak well of them; and we owe it no less to our friends who are alive, and whom we shall leave behind us, to live such lives and to develop such virtues that those who love us may have unmixed pleasure in recalling what we have been and what we have done. As in our memory of those we have loved and lost, we find the greatest satisfaction in recalling those qualities of mind and heart which most nearly allied them to our best conceptions of moral goodness and a happy destiny, so are we bound by the most sacred obligations to leave to our loved ones the priceless heritage of a good name—a treasure that will be a delight and not a burden to them—a memory of faith, of purity, of philanthropy, and of loyalty to God, to home, to country, and to all that is praiseworthy and of good report.

I am glad that to-day we are not to speak merely of the ideal man, but of a real man, of one whom we have known and honored and loved; a man the memory of whose life now that he has gone, is a repository of good things, a delight and a joy to his own, and an inspiration to his fellow-men, and especially to his associates in the profession which so greatly absorbed him, and to which he devoted his time and talents with such restless industry and such untiring zeal. Dr. Nathan Smith Davis was a man among men, a public-spirited citizen among his fellow citizens, and a physician always and everywhere—a physician who loved his profession, and sought to honor and exalt it by every possible means, and at any cost of labor or sacrifice. The proof that he did all this is in the record of his life. His life was long and full of incident, and especially full of efforts for the advancement of the science of medicine, and for the enlargement of the sphere of its usefulness. He looked upon it not merely as a science, but as an agency for the alleviation of suffering, as the servant of mankind, as a benediction to the human race.

It is scarcely guesswork to assert that it was the idea entertained by him of the philanthropic character of the work of the physician that intensified his love for it, and that induced him to devote himself to it with such unremitting persistence. Before his mind this calling stood out distinctly as clothed with all the sacredness of a divinely appointed agency for bringing relief from God to suffering men. With this high conception of his profession, and with a proper appreciation of the respon-

sibilities involved in accepting it as a life-work, it was not possible for him to do otherwise than take a broad view of the privileges and obligations accompanying it, nor could he fail to put a high estimate upon the sciences which underlie it and are so necessary to all who would successfully practice the healing art.

He was himself a student—a diligent and patient student—and with his appreciation of the value of a complete equipment for the work, he wanted all doctors to be students and to have access to all the helps that could be secured or created for the prosecution of studies in those branches of learning which were necessary to proficiency in the great profession, or helpful or tributary to its elevation and improvement. He was therefore the promoter of colleges—colleges of Liberal Arts and Medical Colleges—and may be justly regarded as a pioneer in this line of work in this city. . . . . .

It has been said that the study of medicine as a science tends to make men skeptical—that such constant and intimate contact with the laws and forces of nature as this study requires, leads to materialistic conceptions of the universe, and shuts out thoughts of things spiritual and divine. Sad indeed if this were true. Then there would be conflict between Christianity and science; between the disclosures of men's inner consciousness and the impressions gained from personal contact with the world through the media of the senses. To my mind this statement is not well founded—it is not in harmony with experience or observation; for facts warrant the assertion that among no class of thinking men are there to be found a larger percentage of believers in God and in the virtues of the Christian faith, than among those who give their lives to this study. It is true that men of no other class come into closer touch with the laws and forces of nature than do physicians; and if God be revealed in his laws and if his wisdom and power be traceable in his works, then to the honest student of nature there must come intimations of infinite wisdom and power, and of high moral purpose, such as do not come necessarily to men engaged in other pursuits. There is no more materialism in science, not falsely so-called, than there is in trade and traffic. There is nothing more engrossing to the senses in this profession than there is in banking and finance. Rather it would seem that men who come nearest to God's laws come nearest to God himself. If it be

true, as has been said, that an "undevout astronomer is mad," it must be true that the man who masters the intricacies of nature's laws to the extent necessary to become respectable in the medical profession, and yet becomes a disbeliever in God, has at least missed great opportunities, and failed to follow the truest impulses of his own personality. The doctor is not necessarily a skeptic. In no profession have there appeared men of stronger faith or of more intelligent devotion to Christian principles than among physicians.

The remark has also been made that men who have gained eminence in this profession have lost sympathy with men—have followed a single line of thought till they have lost sight of the great world with its push and rush in the lines of business and of general and social progress, and have come to live in a little world of their own—a world quite apart from the real world of actual humanity—with the result that they have become narrow and selfish. If there is much truth in this it furnishes an argument against specialties and specialists in any profession and in any calling. There are doubtless examples to be found which illustrate this statement, and which taken alone would seem to indicate that concentration of mind tends to narrowness. But it is not wise to take exceptions for the rule. Indeed the man largely determines the tendency of his own habits in this regard. If he be narrow and selfish in the primary qualities of nature, the concentration of his thoughts upon a given line of study will be very likely to intensify his selfishness and to make conspicuous his lack of breadth and generous sympathy. There are such in all professions. In the ministry they become fanatics, and in medicine they become fadists. We disparage either profession by treating such as illustrations of general tendencies. We rather take it that a man of great faculties can never become little. He seeks and demands a large world. "No pent up Utica confines his powers." He wants room, and finds it where great facts await his coming, and where great forces await the touch of his genius to bring them into harmonious relations, and to set them to the accomplishment of the beneficent purposes of their mission. Then we take it, further, that greatness and littleness are relative terms—that the things which these terms represent are not to be confounded with bulk or space. A great world may not require large space. The man with the microscope lives in as

vast a universe as does the one with the telescope. The latter sweeps immensity and measures stars and the orbits of worlds, while the other detects hidden minutiæ and reveals activities and forces which give greatness to bulk. Without the little things of the world, no world could be great; and without the minutest details of life, no life could reach its proper measure of greatness.

He whose life we commemorate to-day was not little. While he busied himself with the details of the substance, structure, organs and functions of the human body and sought to know the properties of the mineral and vegetable substances which constitute the mighty aggregation of *materia medica,* he was to some extent shut in from the leisure and pleasure of a less intense life; but this did not destroy his sympathy with his fellow-men. He was neither a recluse nor a cynic. He kept in touch with the currents of popular thought. While not altogether of the world, he was in it and with it in the fellowship of its higher life, and especially with it in its struggles for the betterment of the intellectual, moral, and social conditions of the masses. He readily joined with others in pushing enterprises for the public weal; and in his efforts to build institutions for the advancement of science he was neither visionary nor abstruse, but wise in counsel, and practical in plans and methods.

There was, however, another aspect of his life which it has been deemed desirable to have represented, and for that reason mainly is due my invitation to be present. He was not only a scientist, a physician, a philanthropist, but he was also a Christian. With all the skepticism of our times, which spreads a pall of darkness over the brightest hopes of men, there is still an atmosphere about us of cheerfulness and hope which could not exist without the inspirations of the Christian faith. It is this that gives tone and character to the civilization of our day, and distinguishes it as superior to all other civilizations. We do well therefore to emphasize our Christianity, to assert its claims, and to give it honor as the chief element of our greatness and power as a people. But when we simply say that a man was a Christian, we say but little about him personally, or little that conveys a distinct idea of his religious life. If we go into the land of another civilization, as in a pagan or Mohammedan country, and speak of a man as a Christian, we simply indicate that he is from a land where the Christian religion is the dominant

faith, and give no idea of his personal character. With the people of those countries all who are from America are Christians, regardless of the lives they lead, and this fact is not a small obstacle in the way of the propagation of the faith. But here when we say of a man that he is a Christian, we convey the idea that he has in some way avowed his personal belief in God, and in His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and such is our education that we expect those who have made this avowal to live according to the high standards of Christian morality. We account no one a Christian who does not conform in character and life to the demands of the Christian faith.

In this country, if we would be sure of the qualities of a man's Christian profession and Christian life, we want to go a little farther and ascertain his denominational bearings. A man may be a Christian and a Roman Catholic, or a Lutheran, or a Presbyterian, or a Baptist, or a Methodist. When we know his denomination, we know in a general way the distinguishing features of his personal beliefs.

Dr. N. S. Davis was a Methodist. In early life he professed faith in Christ, and united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and lived in full fellowship and communion with that church for more than half a century. His profession was therefore specific. He accepted the doctrines and usages of his church and sought to live the life his profession required. We therefore know where to find him religiously. He was true and loyal to his church, but he was neither narrow nor bigoted. He could not be and be a consistent Methodist; but he must be positive in his convictions and broad in his sympathies.

As a Methodist he believed in the authenticity, the authority, and the inspiration of the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments; in the sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures as the rule of faith and practice; in the summary of doctrines set forth in the baptismal covenant and in the Apostles' Creed; and in this faith he stood on ground common to all evangelical churches in Christendom. As a Methodist he believed in the universal reign of sin through the corruption of human nature; in the incarnation of God in the person of his Son; in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of men; and in the sufficiency of that sacrifice to make salvation possible to all men. He believed also in justification by faith; in regeneration by the Holy Ghost; in the witness of the Spirit to personal adoption; in sanctification

through the blood of the everlasting covenant; in the sufficiency of grace to sustain believers in perseverance to the end; in the resurrection from the dead, and in rewards and punishments in the world to come. Standing intelligently on this broad platform, he could not be otherwise than Catholic in spirit, recognizing as brethren all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity in any church and in all churches, and extending the hand of fellowship to all such, regardless of ecclesiastical forms and usages. In full accord with his church he regarded Christianity as much greater than Methodism, or any other ism, and could not imagine the lines of the Kingdom of God as quadrating with the lines of any ecclesiastical organization on the earth.

As a Methodist, he accepted the ten commandments and the sermon on the mount as the divinely appointed standard of morality, and held that our Lord's summary of these, enjoining love to God with all the heart and soul, and love to our neighbor as to ourselves, to be the supreme law of the Christian life, and an indication of the highest possible attainment in grace.

This is enough. Religion, with Dr. Davis, was a perennial fountain, a steadily flowing stream, nourishing inward virtues, refreshing the spirit, and consecrating daily activities. It was pre-eminently a spiritual force—not a form, nor a ceremony, nor a sentiment, but a principle of life, animating, controlling, vivifying and directing, both the inner states of the soul and the outward conduct of life.

Then, if this estimate be at all just, there are lessons in such a life for all classes. The physician will discern in it traits worthy of imitation. Not the least important will be unswerving devotion to the profession. Dr. N. S. Davis was wedded to his calling. He believed in it, he loved it, he magnified it, and therefore its duties and its sacrifices were a delight to him. Its commercial aspects were not the attractions that held him to it. He never determined its value by its revenues. From his young manhood down to old age he saw it in its higher relations as the servant of humanity. It was not a trade, but a philanthropic movement, a storehouse of blessings for the afflicted, while the physician was God's prepared almoner for the distribution of these needed mercies. It was this exalted conception of the profession that inspired his faithfulness and industry in it, and it was his love for the work and his industry that brought him

to eminence and honor among his fellow workers in the same field.

Another lesson from this life is that manhood counts. This is true in every profession, in every calling, and every sphere of life. Genuineness in the man is always at a premium. Neither learning, nor skill, nor polish, nor family, will be a substitute for character. The doctor is nothing without genuineness. His business and his relations with all classes of people demand it. Dr. Davis could be trusted. His honor was above suspicion. He was genuine. He was also kind of heart, a lover of good men, tender towards the weak and erring, and a terror to quacks and pretenders. He was a good hater. He despised shams, and fads, and meannesses. Towards these he was brusque. His speech was terse. To express his thoughts of things disagreeable in professional life, required no visit to the circumlocution office. Even this terseness was a mark of his genuineness. Hypocrisy was no part of his nature. In all things he was manly and true.

Let me add another lesson: Christian faith is not a detriment in any calling. The man who loves God, and loves his fellow-men, and practices the moralities, and the self-denials, and charities, and the philanthropies of the gospel of the grace of God, is better for it, more fully trusted, even by selfish and worldly men, and has higher motives for unselfish labors, and stronger incentives to the studies and duties which assure success, than he could otherwise possibly have. The whole world will honor the studious, successful, godly, Christian physician, and no one can hold a higher place in the popular esteem. He is of necessity a benefactor, and like all workers in lines of benevolence he finds large compensation in the consciousness of doing good and of being helpful to the suffering and needy. He lives in the sunshine of God's favor and is cheered by the approval of his fellow-men.

It was a great and spontaneous gathering of the fellow citizens of Dr. Davis, including all ranks and classes, and their attitude of deep respect was gratifying evidence of their estimate of the man whose memory they strove to honor.

CHAPTER XVI.

Commemorative Tablet.

On the 24th of March, 1905, the graduating class of the Northwestern University Medical School placed a bronze tablet, in memory of Dr. Davis, in "Davis Hall," one of the buildings occupied by the medical school. The exercises were attended by nearly the entire faculty and student body, and were appropriate and interesting.

A photograph of the tablet is reproduced, and the commemorative addresses are quoted herewith:

> By Dr. E. Wyllys Andrews:—Dr. Davis was a many-sided man. His career as a physician presents many phases which interest us. We can learn most, perhaps, by dwelling to-day on only one phase of that great life work.
>
> His whole medical career seems to me so strongly to point the moral of the absolute necessity for hard, intelligent work, that everything else in his life, even his own brilliant and varied talents, sink into insignificance in comparison. Is it not well to put before ourselves plainly what we all secretly admit—that nothing but strenuous, unremitting work can bring about such a career? Is there a great business or institution in the world which has been built up or which will stay built up except on the foundation of somebody's ceaseless toil? Can you march an army or an exhibition a thousand miles without taking one by one the millions of steps which make up the distance?
>
> Dr. Davis reached the goal before most of his competitors because he took the first and second and every succeeding step earlier than they. He took the first step in the right direction because he had more faith in his compass—which was principle and trust in right for right's sake.
>
> He did hard, detail, scientific work in early life which brought him recognition all over the country. He continued, after the age when Dr. Osler says men should retire, to do an amount of work which would put most of us up-to-date, but ease-loving, workers to shame. It is not a man's years, but the quantity and the quality of his intellectual output which

decides the question of how old he is. Judged by this test many young men have premature atheroma and arterio-sclerosis.

This is why men like Dr. Davis (it is perhaps as well for our comfort there are very few of them) soon pass us commoner and short-sighted fellows. Very few of us have the long view. We have no very accurate chart of our future course. We have to earn and enjoy a fair living and rest when we are old, but we see no clear picture beyond the near distance.

Of course we are unconsciously moulded by the average

tone of our colleagues, and we grow to be like them—average in everything. Our professional standards are a composite of the impressions left by the better class of physicians who live the blameless professional life and pass away in honor.

But more than that mere silent or negative influence, the silent lives of men like Davis create new standards. He wrote the Code of Ethics which rules our conduct, but he did more than live this code. It says "Thou shalt not" do certain things. Davis was not merely a man of negatives, but lived the strenuous, creative life of a pioneer.

Pioneers need to be stalwart men. It required a bold mind

to conceive and carry out the Lewis and Clark expedition from the Mississippi to the Oregon coast a century ago. It sounded like an impossible dream and it would have been impossible to most leaders. There was something of the pioneering spirit about Dr. Davis. He saw things which no one around him had thought of. He saw in the far future a handful of half-educated provincial doctors transformed into the organized great profession of modern America. He saw paltry one-year medical schools developing into the modern university, and he strove without ceasing for sixty years to bring it about.

Had he not the same prophetic vision as Lewis and Clark of the far-away modern ocean of his hopes, and the same inspiring courage in the face of obstacles? Is this mere poetical license, or was it not rather the simple, accurate picture of the world strenuous life work of Dr. Davis? Can you put your finger on a minute when he was not hurrying, striving and urging others toward the sunset shore whose image he saw in early life?

There he was in New York, a young physician, urging, beseeching, driving the indifferent doctors of his state to organize, to define and regulate medical education. They thought he was a one-ideaed man and were pretty slow to follow him.

There he was in middle life, still organizing state and national societies and even visiting Europe to further international unions. Now, he was carrying out his ideas of medical graded education in a school founded for this sole purpose, the only one of its kind in America.

There he was again in advanced years still hammering on the same anvil, still the acknowledged leader and Nestor of the American profession, the real spirit and motive power of the American Medical Association as he had been ever since it was founded by his hand.

When past sixty he undertook the tremendous task of publishing and editing the Journal of the American Medical Association, now the largest journal in the world. For years he managed and edited this journal, and its form has never been changed since he founded it. There, in the councils of this great Association, he is to-day, though not in the flesh; for the strenuous fight which the Association Council is making to raise medical education, to bind together the scattered profession of this land, is the Davis spirit, still marching on after his body is in the grave.

Talk about your bronze tablet! That Association is a greater and more enduring monument than the finest bronze. This school and the principles it represents, will outlive all buildings, monuments, and men now living and many yet to come. Is there any man like Davis now among us? If there is any one of us with such leadership of men, tenacity of purpose and high ideals, he too, will go far, endure long, and rise high in this or any other honorable career.

* * *

DR. N. S. DAVIS AND MEDICAL EDUCATION.

By George W. Webster, M. D.:—Any estimate of the value of the service rendered by Dr. Davis to the cause of MEDICAL EDUCATION must be based on a very broad view of the subject and must include a knowledge of conditions, especially as they obtained in the first half of the last century, and must also be looked at from his viewpoint.

At the time of the achievement of the Independence of the States in 1776, the population of the 13 Colonies was about three millions. Scattered among these Colonies from Massachusetts to Georgia were about 3,500 men engaged in the practice of medicine. Of these, approximately 400 had received the degree of M. D. There were two medical colleges, the Medical College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania, 1765, and the Medical Department of Kings (now Columbia College), in New York, 1768. Prior to the Revolution, both these schools had conferred only 51 medical degrees, and active operations in both colleges were suspended by the progress of the war. Only three medical societies are known to have been organized during the colonial period of our history. In only two colonies were there any laws or rules regulating the practice of medicine. Thus, in 1776, there were 3,400 practitioners supplying three million people scattered over 13 states, two medical colleges and two medical societies.

In the period from 1776 to 1810, seven medical colleges were organized. In the next 30 years, 26 new medical schools appeared, making the total 35. Between 1830 and 1845, the number more than doubled, leading to active rivalry, and a competition which aimed mostly at an increased number of students,

and fees for the pockets of the teachers. These schools were generally private enterprises, at times openly and avowedly business ventures; at times they took on the guise of departments of some established seat of learning; rarely endowed, and, by their very nature, little calculated to give their graduates more than the merest smattering of the knowledge of the Science and Art of Medicine.

Population of Colonies	Students.	Graduates.	Colleges.
1810..... 7,239,881	650	100	7
1840.....17,069,453	2,500	800	35
1876.....40,000,000	6,500	2,200	64
1904.....75,000,000	....	....	157

The report of the committee on Medical Education, of the Medical Association, 1850, said: "Medical Education is defective because there are too many medical schools; the teachers are too few. There are too many students. The quantity of medicine taught is too limited; the quality is too superficial, and the mode of bestowal of the honors of medicine too profuse and unrestricted." This, bear in mind, was at a time when the science and art of medicine occupied a narrow, a very narrow field; when obstetrics was almost wholly in the hands of midwives; surgery was an appendage of anatomy; chemistry, physiology and pathology, and histology scarcely known at all, bacteriology, antiseptics and anæsthetics not even dreamed of, the course consisted of two repetitional courses of 13 to 16 weeks, and the diploma everywhere conferred the right to practice medicine, and for many long years afterwards, namely, 1877, even this was not demanded. So much for the conditions. Now, how did he view them, and what did he do to improve them? In this connection, I cannot do better than to quote some of his own words. On page 17, of the history of the American Medical Association, publish in 1855, he says, "So, too, by the association of mind with mind, in the rapidly recurring anniversary of meetings of the learned, not only in thought made to elicit thought, and the generous ambition of one made to kindle a kindred impulse in another, but the rich and varied fruits of many intellects are brought to a common storehouse, and made the common property of all; for intellectual treasures, unlike those of a material nature, neither became monopolized

by concentration, lost by use, nor diminished by diffusion or communication to others."

Again he says in his report on Medical Education in the United States to the United States Commissioner of Education, published in 1877: "No apology is necessary for including MEDICAL SOCIETIES among the educational institutions of our profession; for whatever increases the enterprise, stimulates the spirit of philosophical investigation, or adds an item to the stock of knowledge possessed by the profession, or whatever elevates it in the scale of social existence, is as truly a part of its educational means as is the study of the text books and the frequenting of the schools." "The latter may, indeed, constitute the foundation, but many other things are required to complete the superstructure of a fair medical education." "And among these other things, no one is of greater importance than well organized organizations, admitting of frequent communication and free interchange of thought among their members. Such association not only elicit observations, stimulate investigations, and save from oblivion numberless facts; but they counteract the selfish feelings of individuality, they diffuse knowledge, they elevate the social feelings, and they embody and generalize facts that would otherwise remain isolated and useless."

We thus see clearly that the conditions obtained at the time he began the practice of medicine in 1840, were such as to dishearten anyone of less courage or less enthusiasm. We also see equally clear that he apprehended perfectly the conditions which obtained, and that he realized fully, and seemed to be one of the first to realize, that the education of the physician is a problem which does not begin in or end in the medical school; that his education before he enters the medical school is as important as is his course of training in the latter; and that his education after he leaves the medical school is a more important and difficult problem than either; and that this could be successfully accomplished only by the organization of the medical profession into national, state and local medical societies; and that the licensing power should be distinct from the teaching function. He realized that the man who is the greatest teacher and does the most for medical education, is not the man who teaches well his own little class; he is the man who enunciates principles, raises, establishes and maintains standards, organizes societies or does well his part in those already organized;

who does not follow precedent, blindly, but establishes new precedents; is not a follower but a leader of strong men and a ruler of weak ones; who is not simply the result of his environment, but makes, creates new environment and thus creates new conditions. * * *

These facts, together with his native ability, explain in some measure his breadth of view, solidity of argument, fluency of speech and aptness of illustration which contributed so much to his fame as an orator, as a clinical teacher, and as an organizer. * * *

Let us then not merely recite his precepts and catalogue his attainments and virtues, but let us rather emulate his example. Let us here highly resolve to take an interest, a human interest in correlated branches of knowledge, and let us study the *social organisms* as well as the *human organism;* let us cultivate anything which will bring us nearer to our fellow men, broaden our intelligence and widen our humanity and extend our influence.

You will, perhaps, little know nor long remember what I say here, but you must never forget what he did here. Monuments, tablets and eulogy are for the dead, but no words of ours, no human speech can add anything to his fame, augment the gratitude, the grateful homage which we here offer as a loving tribute to his memory.

And now, at last, the evening of life has come, the shadows are lengthening along the land, the "embers of red are turning to ashes of gray," with one hand clasped in the hand of her who, throughout life had been his comfort, his hope, his solace, his very life, he lies down to his last long sleep. The silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl broken, and the spirit has returned to the God who gave it.

* * *

NATHAN SMITH DAVIS AS A MAN.

By E. C. Dudley:—Great men are modest. It is said that when the King of France sent his courtiers to decorate Michael Faraday for the great discoveries in science which he had made they found in an attic, seated on a rough board by the side of a rude table, a man of plain appearance, of simple garb and of primitive, though gentle manner. Judging him by their

own artificial standards they directed him to conduct them to the great scientist, Michael Faraday, when he replied, "I am Faraday." The courtiers, thinking to make amends for an unfortunate blunder, then continued, "Will the great scientist show us his laboratory, and will he show us the instruments and appliances with which he has made his wonderful discoveries?" Whereupon Faraday replied, "This is my laboratory," and pointing to some copper wire, a few fragments of carbon, a block of zinc and some jars containing acids and other chemicals, "these are the appliances with which my discoveries were made."

So many of the greatest achievements, whether in literature, art, commerce, statesmanship, philanthropy or science have been realized by men of primitive environment, of humble antecedents, of meagre equipment, of apparently inadequate preliminary training, that the question may well be raised, to what extent are environment, training, equipment and appliances with all their well-known value essential to success in the pursuit of high purpose? In reply to this question it may be sufficient to say that the honest, simple, clear, truthful man, whose memory we cherish, whose achievements depended upon few advantages of conventional early education was, in his capacity as one of the founders of this school, foremost to insist upon a high degree of general and technical training as prerequisite to professional study. It is clear, therefore, that even though he may have recognized a definite compensation in character and physique for the man of native power whose early life is passed close to nature outside the great scholastic centers, yet his very deficiencies would have made him the last to consider his own remarkable career as a possible protest against broad, generous scholarship. In speculating on the relative result which might have followed had Dr. Davis been a product of the metropolis, and the great university instead of the farm and district school, and in estimating what essential advantage undergraduate college training might have given him, we must draw a differential between two classes of individuals: First, the many of average intellectual power, who with adequate equipment and work may hope to attain a degree of usefulness and distinction; second, the few of highest natural endowment, who by force of mere intellect and sheer ability and industry must of necessity rise to the very top—on the one hand there is a possible elevation of mediocrity by which the valley may be leveled and filled;

on the other, there is an exalted genius, which regardless of trappings and of what to it might be only superficial adornment, always takes its proper place as does the mountain top in the clear white light above the clouds. To the second royal class belongs Dr. Davis.

The King is no subject; he is to be judged neither by perspective nor by tradition, nor by fashion nor by conventionalities, for he makes perspective; he makes tradition; he makes fashion; he makes conventionalities. There is then less of essential value in conventionalities, in fashion for such a man, because the vantage ground on which the force of intellect and the genius of industry place him, makes him singularly independent of the ordinary and current scholastic polish which, for the most of us would appear to be indispensable.

Grant's Memoirs of the Civil War, written on his deathbed, with almost superhuman fortitude against fatal and wasting disease, at once commanded the admiration of scholars as a rugged, terse, vigorous, clear-cut example of English composition. A single adverse review, however, came from the pen of a professor of rhetoric, who appeared to imagine that he was doing the world a service in pointing out certain passages of Grant's book, which to his mind, did not conform to scholastic usage. This review was an estimate by a critical rhetorician of the work of a constructive rhetorician. Mr. Clemens reviewed the review in words somewhat as follows: If we should climb the Matterhorn and find strawberries growing on the top, we might be surprised and gratified, but, Great God, we do not climb the Matterhorn for strawberries.

Emerson must have had in mind a man like Dr. Davis when he said, "I wish I could teach my children the world's greatest lesson, absence of pretension." If any one of us should raise the question whether it is ever justifiable to give a nervous patient a placebo—for example, a hypodermic of water, pretending that it was morphine, or by inference to create the impression that he had made an accurate diagnosis when he knew he had not, or to venture upon a favorable prognosis in a doubtful case, or to pay or to receive a commission for the purchase or sale of a patient, or to undertake the responsible treatment of a case when he knew another would be more efficient, or to pose in any way for the mere effect upon the multitude, let him ask himself: What would have been Dr. Davis' answer?

The extraordinary mental integrity of this man was in large degree owing to the habit which he must have formed early in life of never deceiving anyone, least of all himself; of never pursuing the indirect method; of never wanting the courage of his convictions; of never stopping short of the point, for "it doth follow as the night the day" that mental integrity and a closely associated brain and nerve nutrition are in very large measure dependent upon truth and directness and bravery. The influence of such integrity on the life and efficiency of the individual is incalculable, it is a solace in time of trial; it is a resource against calamity; it is the unique and telling quality of a great man by which he estimates men and things at their true value; by which he pricks bubbles; by which he checkmates the false player and bankrupts the selfseeker; by which he strikes things like a bullet between the eyes. By virtue of this quality he has a clear advantage in the realization of two essential criteria of a successful life—advanced age without handicap, and achievement without embarrassment. We go to the house of such a man not to see his draperies and ornaments, nor even his pictures and books; these are all subordinate—we go to see *him*. As was said of a Spanish prince: "The more you take from him, the more he appears to have, the greater he appears to be."

Dr. Davis was more creative than speculative; his intellectual processes more concrete than abstract; his work usually constructive, seldom destructive; he never talked about what he was going to do, he did it. He joined the rugged, primitive, simple qualities of the traditional pioneer to the civilization of the scholar, the teacher and the man of affairs. He was broad enough to look beyond the narrow confines of his calling, to appreciate the relation of things outside, and, putting his profession on a high plane, to put the world even higher. Education owes him much; the university owes him much; the world owes him much. Although for some time he had ceased to fill his accustomed chair, the students of the medical school could look to him as a living example, as a guide, as a sympathetic friend.

Those of us members of the faculty, who to him were once the younger, as to you we are now the older members, have endured a loss not greater but more personal than yours, for he had kept in touch with us from the first. He had rejoiced in

our triumphs, were they few or many, and he had mourned over our faults.

Men, like trees, may die at the top, not necessarily from recognized pathological degeneration of the brain, but from disuse of the brain, and consequent arrest of growth, and so, although mentally reduced almost to the vanishing point, may live on, and on, and on, with little or no impairment of the general nutrition. But fortunately there is no fixed period even in the longest life when the mental faculties of man recede so far as necessarily to shut out new thought, to render the individual incapable of rising to new heights. As the leaves under favorable conditions of nutrition may continue green on the topmost branch of the old tree which long ago became hollow in the trunk, and which now is drawing its sap mostly through the bark, so any man, young or old, who would not die at the top must make the conditions favorable, must strive to forget self and to cultivate interests larger than themselves. He must take care to remain mentally young, and still "blooming at the top amid the frost of years," he must not surrender to the sordidness and discontent, the garrulity and inertia of a decaying old age, and thus like our old friend he may gladden the world, "the last leaf on the tree," having survived the winter blast and in the second spring, not seared and yellow, but still green and filled with the fire and enthusiasm of youth.

To epitomize from some of the appreciations which the life and death of this man have brought out: We have seen him a youth of sixteen following the plough, and for a single session only going to the village academy; serving as an apprentice with a country doctor, and in 1837, after a period of less than three years of study, taking the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the age of twenty; displaying strength of mind and character and refusing to be misled by his great natural gifts, refusing to imagine that even genius without adequate education can make a competent physician; "early gathered about him in Binghamton, N. Y., a following of medical students whom he instructed and inspired;" in 1843, serving his County Society as a delegate at the annual meeting of the New York Medical Association, and breaking new ground by making his first appeal for a higher standard of medical education; leading a national convention of delegates from hospitals and medical colleges who came from all parts of the United States to deliberate on the best

measures to improve medical education and thus founding the American Medical Association; becoming President and the most distinguished leader of that organization; in 1849 settling in Chicago and early and strongly identifying himself with the educational, moral, scientific and sanitary progress of the city; filling a professorship at Rush Medical College; taking a leading part in the councils both on the floor and in the Presidential chair of the Illinois State Medical Society; establishing the Journal of the American Medical Association, and placing it on a substantial scientific, literary and financial basis; presiding at the first meeting of the International Medical Congress held in the United States, in the midst of the onerous duties of a large private practice, in the midst of unremitting ministrations in times of epidemic, continuing to teach, to write, to edit and to cooperate "in all movements for the common good in which his attention was claimed;" taking part in the formation of the Northwestern University, The Chicago Academy of Sciences, the Illinois State Microscopical Society, the Union College of Law, and the Washingtonian Home; being himself "greater than his knowledge, than his deeds, than his reputation;" "teaching by his life as well as by his works;" having abundant opportunity to accumulate riches, but like Agassiz, never having time to get money, and declaring that he would be humiliated to die in possession of great riches.

We are commanded "to renew unutterable grief," for we shall see him no more. Our distinguished leader has passed over into the unknown, leaving behind him the goodly heritage of a long and useful and honorable life; a striking example of new-world manhood; honest, aggressive, faithful, fearless, efficient, adequate; full of well-directed energy; raising himself to the highest plane of human endeavor and at the same time drawing others up with him.

Behold, in the man whom this tablet symbolizes an epic in courage, integrity and achievement.

* * *

DEDICATORY ADDRESS.

By William O. Krohn, Ph. D.:—The Declaration of American Independence is commonly believed to have been promulgated July 4, 1776, when in fact the real "declaration of independence"—independence of thought and action—the Greater

American Independence dates from Aug. 31, 1837—the day on which Ralph Waldo Emerson gave to the world his master oration—"The American Scholar." As we glance at the history of medicine in this country, can we not also say that the "declaration of independence" within the medical profession was promulgated when such men as the one whom we this day meet to honor, by heroic united effort, blazed the trail that led their fellows and followers in the medical profession along new paths entirely and forever disassociated from mysticism, superstition and tradition into the positivism of science?

The heroic pioneers in the world's history are not only the explorers, Cabot, Columbus, Magellan; they are not only those "hewers of wood and drawers of water" who founded our Republic, the Adamses, Washington, Hamilton, but must of necessity include those other brave spirits—those other leaders of thought and action who broke away from servile worship of the past and heroically took advanced position so that they might the better seek out that which would make their chosen line of work of greater use in the world.

You recall the inscription over the peristyle at our World's Fair in 1893, the words of which were dedicated to the pioneers of civil and religious liberty:

> "But bolder they who first off-cast
> Their moorings from the habitable past
> And ventured chartless on the sea
> Of storm-engendering liberty."

Do not these words also apply full well to men who, like Nathan Smith Davis, in the pioneer days of their particular branch of science led the way to higher and better things?

The members of this class have been told to-day of the qualities of heart and brain that made for success in the life of Dr. Davis—qualities which in crowning his life with success, enriched the lives of others and gave to the honored profession of medicine, new vantage ground. It may be the boldest presumption on my part to attempt to add one word of encomium, but with my classmen I cannot avoid taking note of two or three conspicuous attributes of the personality of Dr. Davis that not only brought him the joys of victory, but will just as surely make for our success in the same chosen profession.

First—*enthusiasm.* I do not mean the enthusiasm of mere noise that makes it so akin to idle boasting. Some medical men —like some steamboats—use much of their steam to run the whistle. The rather do I mean that quite effective enthusiasm that shows itself in deeds accomplished. This quality of enthusiasm in Dr. Davis had much to do in the founding of the American Medical Association, the betterment of hospital facilities in this city, and the improvement of medical education. This enthusiasm so quietly manifested, was the continual dropping that finally wore away the stones of opposition in his pathway as he was striving for better things in his chosen sphere of action. Without such enthusiasm as an impelling force, not one of us can expect to succeed.

Second—*kindliness.* It has been said that Dr. Davis was essentially a gruff man—that at times he seemed even harsh of manner. But those who knew him well maintain that this seeming harshness of manner was due to his direct method of statement arising from his desire to get at the gist of things. His mind naturally was so keenly analytic that he deemed it sufficient to state facts as he found them, shorn of any of the softening influences of rhetoric. Dr. Davis dealt with hard facts, with little or no time for sentimental gush. As to his trait of kindliness, it is much better to take the verdict of those who in childhood came in contact with his ennobling life. Some of the solid business men of Chicago tell me of Dr. Davis' acts of kindness of which they had positive knowledge and personal experience in their childhood—from actually coming in touch with his magnificent personality, and these kindly acts were infinite in number. His whole life seemed *actuated by the one fundamental purpose of doing good,* and the love of the children for him is the best possible indication of his real greatness of heart.

He loved the children—this is certain because they loved him, which is in and of itself positive of his kindliness. The words of the poet are certainly apropos of this man:

> "Greatheart loveth a little child,
> No matter how ragged and dirty, he
> Opens his heart if a child it be.
> He loves them all. They hold the key
> To a heart for others all mystery.
> Greatheart loveth a little child.

"Greatheart loveth a little child;
He knows them all and they all know him;
To them he never seems to be grim
Or gruff or grouty. They know his whim,
Feeling that love fills his heart to the brim,
Greatheart loveth a little child."

The third great characteristic was his *definiteness of purpose,* coupled with an indomitable will. When a plan was once devised he would not relax until fruition of that particular plan was attained. To this one quality—determination, purposive will—more than to any other single attribute, did Dr. Davis owe his marvelous success. And in the field of medicine as in the world at large, there is nothing so much needed as definiteness of purpose backed by stronger, determined will. There is no character so despicable as the weak-willed, vacillating individual, utterly devoid of backbone, who drifts hither and thither down the stream of time, blown about by the wind of other men's breath—nothing more or less than a rudderless bark. The world's greatest demand to-day, in medicine or any other field of laudable activity, is for men of determination and unflinching purpose—those men who by their force of character lift themselves out of the entanglements that environ the weakling and "live above the fog" in public duty and private thinking. This old world of ours needs strength of will more than it needs passive goodness—it needs monstrous engines of truth more than it needs psalm singers.

"There is no chance, no destiny, no fate,
Can circumvent, or hinder, or control
The firm resolve of a determined soul.
Gifts count for nothing: Will alone is great,
All things give way before it soon or late.
What obstacle can stay the mighty force
Of the sea-seeking river in its course,
Or cause the ascending orb of day to wait?

"Each well-born soul must win what it deserves,
Let the fool prate of luck—the fortunate is he
Whose earnest purpose never swerves
The one great aim. Why even Death stands still
And waits an hour sometimes, for such a will."

Professor Plummer, the class of 1905 of Northwestern University Medical School, has met with you and other members of the faculty this day to honor the memory of Dr. Nathan Smith Davis, so long identified with this institution, which largely through his effort has come to stand for all that is best in medical education. We all feel that in our endeavor to honor Dr. Davis we in that very act honor ourselves. The class of 1905 consider it a peculiar privilege to have had the opportunity to erect this bronze tablet to the sacred memory of one who accomplished so much for medical education in general, and for this school in particular. Though but very few of us ever had the joy of knowing this great and good man personally, we every one of us appreciate the qualities that made his life so ennobling, so enriching, so efficient, so wholesome, and to this end we all join in the dedication of this tablet.

To you, Profesor Plummer, as Secretary of the Faculty of the Northwestern University Medical School, and therefore its executive officer, I, on behalf of the Class of 1905, present this bronze Memorial. The entire class contributed to its erection with the laudable purpose that it might, to each successive class in the many years of usefulness before this school, prove a reminder of those qualities of mind and heart that go to make up the successful physician. As the students of the various classes in succeeding years come under the tutelage of yourself and your colleagues on the faculty, they should come face to face with these superb qualities which we as a class admire and reverence as having been concretely expressed in the long and useful life of Dr. Davis. Will you, therefore accept this tablet from us? The Class of 1905 gives it to the school with a double meaning —namely—as a token of our regard for this school, and in tender, sacred memory of Nathan Smith Davis, whose life, great and good, continues to make the earth wholesome.

In accepting the memorial tablet Dr. Plummer spoke as follows:

Mr. Krohn and Members of the Class of 1905:

In accepting, on behalf of the faculty of the Northwestern University Medical School, this tablet in memory of Doctor Nathan Smith Davis, presented by the class of 1905, I do so with the realization that, by the action taken to-day, you have made not only the faculty of this institution, but the alumni and students, present and to come, your debtors.

It is a significant fact, to my mind, that, although you, as a class, did not enjoy, as did so many classes before you, the privilege of personal contact with Doctor Nathan Smith Davis, you still felt inspired to erect this tablet to his memory.

Dr. Davis wielded an influence for his high ideals and enthusiasm in medicine, which could not cease with his death, but which will be potent with generations of students who will follow you.

Not of him can it be said that the good which he did was interred with his bones. "Good and great, he maketh the earth wholesome."

I thank you, on behalf of the faculty, for this appropriate memento.

CHAPTER XVII.

Tributes of Respect from Friends and Former Pupils.

In this chapter the author has the pleasure of presenting several tributes of respect and appreciation, from surviving friends and former pupils of Dr. Davis. A very much larger number could have been secured by simply asking for them, but they would only have been repetitions or amplifications of those here given, and it was deemed quite unnecessary.

The following from the Rev. M. C. Wilcox, Ph. D., a missionary of the M. E. Church in Foochow, China, shows how Dr. Davis impressed young theological students with his knowledge of the Scriptures. Dr. Wilcox is a scholar whose opinion is worth having:

> "My dear Dr. Danforth:
>
> It gave me great pleasure to learn that you are preparing a "life" of the late Dr. N. S. Davis, because many memories of my school life at Evanston were thereby revived. For a time I belonged to a Sunday School class taught by Dr. Davis, and even to the present time I continue to realize the benefit derived from his method of Bible study. During more than a quarter of a century of missionary work in China I have often recalled this remarkable man—sometimes so severe and I might almost say rude in his personal bearing, but at the same time really kind and sympathetic to those in any special need or sorrow.
>
> I wish you great success in your labor of love in behalf of the great doctor's memory and remain, cordially yours,
>
> M. C. Wilcox."

The following tribute from the Rev. Robert H. Pooley, D. D., a prominent minister of the M. E. Church, and at present Presiding Elder of Joliet District of the Rock River Conference, is a graphic description of Dr. Davis "in action" as a Sunday School teacher, in which capacity he was eminently successful:

> "The eminent Hegel is said to have had sixteen pupils, everyone of whom understood his teaching differently, and the inter-

pretation of everyone of these would have been repudiated by the teacher himself. This is not inspiring for any pupil now to hasten to an estimate of his teacher, yet it will not stop judgments of the same as eminent men round up their generations and deposit with their personality all that is to continue of abiding interest to history.

Human leadership must always be the absorbing topic because character is to wear forever. When Boswell wrote the ideal life of Samuel Johnson, he kept before us a character which was as some vast mountain, rising from a plain, that could not lie, could not be taken in, and never hidden.

Soon after coming to Evanston, as a timid youngster from Grant's old Galena home, one of the never-to-be-forgotten men who took an interest in me was Dr. Davis, who taught a Sunday School class, never being late, and almost never absent. When I was longing for a young man's friend, both in body and soul, I presented myself to the Methodist Sunday School, and was conducted to a young men's class of eight, about my size. At once I found myself seated before a judge-like, austere, commanding-looking person, that reminded me of Marcus Aurelius, or one of the sages of the past. I could scarcely see the class for the teacher, whose presence filled the circle like the sun the solar system. Instantly he set his burning little eyes from under those shaggy brows upon the new-comer, and they drew like a magnet, going through my innermost soul. For a moment I feared the man, but after his kindly voice addressed me, I felt he was the young man's friend, and through the hour I studied the teacher more than the lesson, even while he threw to the foreground the attractions of the lesson and not himself. My first impression was, this man cares for boys; secondly, he is bigger than the lesson, knows it, and can tell it, as he makes the past live in the present. Evidently he knew how to preach sermons as well as diagnose nerves and veins, and had he not been a doctor would have been a clergyman. I saw that the man behind the lesson counted like the man behind the gun, and that a great teacher could not come out of a little man. The living fountain of the teaching is after all in personality, and abstract truths are little until they burn into character and cope thereby with eternity.

The doctor impressed me that he was supernaturally great as a man and naturally great as a teacher, who found the greater

lesson always in his own soul. As he gathered into his own person both heart and life of Jew and Gentile, he made the race appear one and God as its reasonable Father.

So the great teacher gave us of his own soul through the lessons, without ever making a personal reference.

I felt he was approachable, my friend to do me good, but the moment one came to the sacred border of his hidden character, he might as well strike against Gibralter to pass through. A great man is always a mystery, hence always of interest.

The doctor was an adept in Old Testament history; he knew it in geography, biography, physiology and philosophy like a b c. And while he was perfectly consumed by the lesson, he was more interested in us boys. He knew values. The quality of wisdom distinguishes the scholar from the mere learned man. He was not teaching lessons, but boys, upon whom he set his heart, well in his eyes, like a searchlight. He looked upon a boy not only as a fact, but much more as a possibility. The boy he could delightedly spend an hour with as a virtuous young man, was the best asset of the country, because in the boy the Eternal was the thing that was not seen. The doctor had the lesson on his mind and us boys on his heart.

I do not know whither the other boys have drifted in the world. I remember almost nothing of them, but the great teacher whose mind was like the sky, and soul was like the ocean, abides with me after thirty years, still impressing me with the strength of his character, the wisdom of his mind and the granite of his soul.

Neither did he discourage his class by the idea of spiritual perfection that made it oppressive. Rousseau was fool enough to think himself perfect, while his life roamed amid unnamable practices; but the impression left on me from my Sunday School teacher was that the incapacity of the saints to discover their own defects was in itself a fault, to be repented of. He told us the ideal was something rather to be always approached, than to ever be grasped, and that the Lord credited us, not so much by what we had actually achieved, as by what we were attempting and dared to pursue; that the soul was the incalculable value, and to bring that into proper relation to God became the true end of noblest endeavor. The doctor was at home among large thoughts. His teaching ever had the mark of Spiritual force and his manner real power.

The Great Artist David was a sceptic, and Raphael a rake, but our eminent teacher was a person always to be admired, and never forgotten—a born teacher—a constitutional moralist, and a wise man whom a thousand years hence might well recall."

R. H. Pooley.

Dr. John Hamilcar Hollister, for many years the intimate friend and colleague of Dr. Davis, has been kind enough to send me the just and noble tribute that follows. There is probably no one else now living who knew Dr. Davis so well and intimately as Dr. Hollister, and that gives an added value to his generous and beautiful tribute:

Character sketching, like portrait painting, should only be committed to a master hand. Only a somewhat intimate acquaintance reaching back for fifty years warrants this reference to the life of Dr. Nathan Smith Davis and the elements which contributed to his eminent success. He was gifted with unusual mental capacity. He had the power of quick and clear perception of the relations of things. He was also by nature a logician. With premises clearly stated and accurately defined, his reasonings carried conviction and rarely failed to reach logical conclusions.

It is safe to say of him that rectitude of purpose was his dominant characteristic, and he was so pronounced in his convictions that had occasion required he might easily have been a martyr in their defense. Such ability and such intensity of conviction were only equalled by his tireless industry. To him few things came by chance. His plans were well thought out and the means for their accomplishment well matured. His knowledge of men was rarely at fault and he was quick to discern those who could serve his purpose best. In legitimate ways he was one of the strongest medical politicians in the profession. By private correspondence the scope and character of a meeting of the American Medical Association was often well outlined before its session. This goes largely to explain the phenomenal success to which the association has attained. Never for a moment giving countenance to methods or deeds that were unworthy, his measures were approved by reason of inherent worth.

Dr. Davis was strongly grounded in the Christian faith and his views of professional and social ethics were founded upon the Golden Rule. If he was subject to criticism it came from

those who knew him least. His strongest friends were those who knew him best.

His patience was sometimes over-taxed, and when an invalid coming to him for treatment began to inform him of his or her ailment, what was needful for their cure, they were briefly and sometimes tersely advised to go home and treat themselves, and not trouble him by seeking advice they did not need.

Yet he carried within his breast a heart ever alive to suffering, and his sympathy for the poor cost him years of unrequited toil, save the richer reward which money cannot buy.

His sympathy led him to special efforts to care for and if possible reform inebriates, and the Washingtonian Home is a monument to his memory. He had a specially kind regard for indigent medical students, and not a few found material help, of which no note was made aside from that which was written in their hearts, along the line of private charity. There are pages of unwritten history of the social events incident to a nearly life-long acquaintance. A single one may suffice. It was after a hot day in August after the bell had tolled the midnight hour when, coming from the care of the sick the doctor and the writer met, for their homes were opposite in the street. A gentle breeze was coming from the lake and the moon full-orbed lent its charm till we forgot the heat and turmoil of the day just passed. For a full hour or more Dr. Davis in his happiest mood stated three of the great purposes of his life, what he set before himself to accomplish when he entered upon his medical career.

The first was the unification of the medical profession by the creation of an American Medical Association.

The second was the founding of a medical college with extended courses of study, and a more rational method of teaching.

The third was the publishing of a text-book which should embody his views of the theory and practice of medicine. The moon was on the wane when the story was complete. He never forgot his purpose, but lived to see his work fulfilled, and the writer recalls the happy midnight hour when both of us should have been in bed. J. H. Hollister.

Dr. John Bartlett, the septuagenarian practitioner of Chicago, was for forty-five years an admirer of the high qualities and abilities of Dr. Davis. Dr. Bartlett did not speak at the banquet referred to, but the following

tribute addressed to Dr. Davis by him on the day after the banquet has come into the hands of the author; and it is here printed. The appropriateness of the letter in this connection will be at once recognized.

Chicago, April 13th, 1902.

To Dr. Nathan S. Davis:

Dear Sir:

On Friday last my sister-in-law, who seems to have acquired a proper appreciation of yourself, chanced to call at my office. I told her of the "Davis Banquet"* and that while heartily approving of the homage to be paid you by the occasion I hardly expected to attend. Meanwhile, I related some "reminiscentia" of my own, showing your energy, your constant attention to business and the endless demands on your time.

Early the next morning my relative sent me an urgent request to attend the banquet. "Go," she said, "and voice your appreciation of the occasion and of the man whose virtues, abilities and singular pertinacity of purpose had invited this tribute."

By way evidently of giving me an impetus in the right direction, she scribbled down these memoranda which strike me as worth transmitting to you even at this late hour: "Yes," she urged, "go to the banquet and speak words fitting the opportunity. Congratulate him on things personal, on his industrious use of time—no waste of it or of energy on minor things—on his direct advance toward his ends, in a manner typified in his practice of hurrying to those in distress, often at night as well as day, along the sidewalk, in a dog trot.

"As an illustration of his 'busy days' tell how he intrusted to your care a patient, while he answered a call, requiring his absence from the city a day or two; how, on account of the increasing urgency of the case, you advised a relative to meet Dr. Davis at the incoming train and urge him to proceed directly to his patient. State how the messenger returned sorely disappointed, in that seven other messengers were at the depot to urge the doctor in this and that direction.

"Narrate how upon one occasion when asked by a medical man who had long waited for an interview, if he had ten minutes to spare, the doctor, overwhelmed with work as he was, replied a little testily, perhaps, 'I have not had ten minutes to spare for the last ten years, and I do not expect to have in the ten next to come!'

*Vide, chapter XIII.

"Do not forget to laud his life-long devotion to his ideals of Temperance. Point out, how many younger and less experienced practitioners his voice and example must have aroused to the responsibilities involved in the thoughtless prescription of stimulants. Assure him that his tireless labors in the good cause were never so certain of their reward as to-day.

"Congratulate him that although it took him the great part of a century to find the time, he had at last upon this evening found that 'ten minutes of leisure' to receive the congratulations of his confreres in medicine. Nature takes a rest after the heat and stress of the growing season is over. Then comes the Indian summer of the year; to the aged doctor the Indian summer of life—a time to count the value of the harvest gathered in."

In presenting the promptings of my relative I take occasion to express my full endorsement of the handsome eulogiums passed upon you last evening by your admiring colleagues.

Your admirable speech of acceptance, like your life, proved a lesson to every physician present. Your earnest suggestion that feelings of enmity toward any mortal should be habitually inhibited, coupled with the expression as to your positive good will toward every human being, will tend much to freshen the atmosphere of these days, tainted by man's malevolence and selfish strife. To thousands of appreciative friends, who hope for the realization of the cherished future of the Christians, your reference to your work as completed, and to your house as in readiness for the final call, tinged with sadness though it be, will afford a joyful satisfaction. Wishing you all happiness pertinent to the perfect fruition of your life, I am,

Your friend, DR. JOHN BARTLETT.

From Roswell Park, M. D., LL. D., professor of surgery in the University of Buffalo, a former pupil and interne of Dr. Davis:

My acquaintance with Dr. N. S. Davis began when, as a freshman student, in 1873, I first attended one of his clinics. The impression then made and subsequently confirmed was that he was a "gentleman of the old school." (He always wore a swallow-tail coat.) He struck me by his dignified bearing and the kindly yet austere manner in which he dealt with his patients and those about him. He seemed always grave, apparently taking the serious view of life, such sense of humor as he may really

have had being concealed beneath the severity of his demeanor.

During the following years, as I came to know him better, both as one of his *internes* and later as a member of the college faculty, these impressions were in the main strengthened. No matter how friendly he became he never forgot that quiet dignity which to many seemed actual coldness or indifference, but which we who knew him, knew to be a species of self-repression behind which he constantly veiled himself. Whether it was the outcome of years of contact with irritating patients, or whether it was a natural characteristic, we never quite learned.

When, as an interne, I came into close contact with him, I more fully appreciated his keen insight into morbid processes, and his comprehensive knowledge of internal diseases, as then understood and taught.

A scholastic lecture by him was a marvel of compact presentation of its subject matter. There were no attempts at oratory or facetiousness, nor any of the useless verbiage with which many teachers obscure rather than clarify their teachings. Direct, analytical and logical was his diction, and the most stupid could not fail but follow it. Quite similar was his presentation of a case in clinic. No one could leave the room or ward after hearing one of his clinical lectures without taking much that was worth remembering, that had been so driven home that it could scarcely be lost.

Considering that those days when I knew him best were before we had the aid of bacteriology and of laboratory aids to diagnosis, it seems to me that his skill and intuition in this direction constituted a rare gift. Naturally throughout his teaching his personality in manner and thought was never lost. His opposition to alcohol, for example, tinctured all his therapeutics, and his ingenuity in finding substitutes for it used to surprise us.

To judge a man correctly some thirty years after close relations have ceased is not an easy matter. Yet my estimate of Dr. Davis, as a man, is that he was ever the fearless champion of what he thought elevating or right, either in professional or civil life. His standards were rigorous and sometimes extreme, but no one could for a moment doubt the sincerity of his purpose nor the energy with which he would pursue it. As a teacher none could excel him in vivid portrayal or terseness of presentation. Whatever he may have lacked in elegance of speech or grace of

oratory he more than atoned for by using a forceful, intelligible English, without affectations of any kind. To his students he was always kindly, even though the interviews were not prolonged. Everyone derived inspiration from contact with him, and his influence upon his own and the succeeding generation was most widespread and beneficial.

In the medical life of his day Dr. N. S. Davis *was a giant.*

ROSWELL PARK.

The following extract is taken from the oration on the "Life and Character" of Dr. Davis, delivered before the *American Medical Association* at its meeting in Portland, Oregon, in 1905, by Henry O. Marcy, A. M., M. D., LL. D., of Boston.

Dr. Marcy was for many long years the intimate friend of Dr. Davis, and his tribute has an added and more sacred value on that account.

The real secret of his wonderful power and influence is found in its last analysis, in the one word *service,* indefatigable energy, consecrated to the good of his fellow man. Without any pretensions to genius, with nothing dramatic or spectacular in his character or career, his lamp burned with a pure and steady flame, always lighting before him the path of duty made honorable.

He lived constantly under the solemn sense of the high responsibility of life, and surrendered himself to its demands with utter and complete self-abnegation, in the single desire to make right the duty of the hour.

We have sketched the early life work of Dr. Davis, that we might the better observe the formative powers of his nature, molded and strengthened by the years. A man of affairs and of the world, the rare boon seemed bestowed upon him to go through life unsullied by them.

He was not alone broad-cultured, high-minded, but a spiritually-guided man. He lived and thought upon a higher level than is given to most men. So modest and unpretentious was he, that he seemed to wear his public honors as a badge of service, rather than of distinction. He often appeared to me to dwell in an atmosphere of his own, quite above the mists and vapors of earth. Other men's *ideals* were his *verities,* in the daily assurance of his walk and conversation.

The spirituality of his early Christian teaching permeated his whole life as a subtle essence, and his conduct was the outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace. The world is richer by the heritage of such a memory.

To Dr. Davis is due the organization of the medical editors of America. I well remember his earnest enthusiasm, founded upon the belief that out of it the medical journalism of America would rise to a higher plane. He was its first President and I had the honor for some years of being the Secretary of the organization. Every medical editor of America recognizes the value of this service and the Association has deepened in interest and strengthened in power with each of the succeeding years.

Few men of any profession have recognized more fully the evils of intemperance and strenuously attempted their eradication than Dr. Davis. To him it made little difference that the effort was unpopular with the rank and file of the medical men. He sought not to correct the evil influence by specially dwelling upon the crimes of intoxication, but rather by teaching that the basic wrong was the injurious effect of alcohol upon the individual. He sought to convince men by first teaching them the rôle of alcohol when taken in any form into the organism. This organized effort for instruction, known as the National Temperance Association, has wielded a power and is exercising an influence of immeasurable good, throughout the civilized world. I am by no means sure but that Dr. Davis considered this the highest fruitage of his entire life. His last scientific contribution, and certainly one of his best, was to this organization, read at the last annual meeting, at the time when Dr. Davis lay upon his bed of death.

From the editorial notice in the *Journal of the American Medical Association,* July 25, 1904, upon the death of Dr. Davis we quote:

"Dr. Davis worked long and earnestly for high ideals in medicine, and for the betterment of his profession in every way. He represented before the people the best and purest in that profession, and he always advocated that which he believed to be for the welfare of his confreres and for the good of the people. However, it was as a medical teacher that Dr. Davis was best known, and thousands of men now in practice reverence his name because of the influence he exerted on them during their student days. No other man influenced the medical profession as Dr. Davis influenced it. He did not belong to Chicago alone, but to the whole country. Here, where he lived, his influence was felt to a greater degree possibly than elsewhere, but his was the kind of influence which reached out and permeated the pro-

fession of the whole country, if not of the world; and when the true history of medicine in America is written, his name will appear more prominently than that of any other man."

These characteristics were recognized even by those who opposed him. So he was believed in and was trusted; hence he was a power. Dr. Davis was a man of whom it might be said, "he loved his fellow-men," but he loved his profession best. He lived a life of purest simplicity. He was a typical representative of the old-school family physician: he had the confidence of his patients, was loved, honored and respected by them, and withal was a welcome friend and counselor in every family in which he was known. His was a character to be emulated.

Would that there were more men in our profession like him. Wearing the crown of earthly honor as a simple exponent of service, interested in the present, as in early manhood, seeing the victories yet to be won in the field of science, as the vista of the future opened before him, in the full ripeness of the many years, the eternity of the present, blended harmoniously with the eternity of the future, as he calmly awaited its dawn.

Firm in the assured hope with which the great Apostle to the Gentiles was persuaded that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," thus was the spirit freed from the broken body, and June 16, 1904, we mourned Nathan S. Davis as numbered with the dead.

The subject of personal relationship is almost too tender for public expression. Thirty years acquaintanceship had ripened into a friendship sweeter to me by far than to him, because of the personal profit of the relationship. If anything lasts over into the great beyond, it will be such ties of congenial loving friendship, which without a ripple ripened and strengthened to the last.

Let the tender associations of the home life be held sacred. Let the city of his choice which had grown under his fostering charge, from a struggling village to the second city of the continent, enshrine his memory in their hearts and perpetuate his form in imperishable bronze, looking out upon the great lake whose pure waters he gave to the public need. But above all let the American Medical Association hold unsullied the example

of his high and noble career, and perpetuate his memory during the centuries to come, by imitating his glorious example of a long life given to public service.

From Dr. Frank Billings, who needs no introduction to our readers:

It was my fortune to sit on the benches as a student in the Chicago Medical College and receive instruction in the theory and practice of medicine from Prof. N. S. Davis. Later I was also fortunate enough to be associated with him on the faculty of the same institution for a period of over sixteen years. Dr. Davis was uniformly considerate and kind to medical students and to medical graduates. I and others went freely to him for advice on many occasions and was always received and treated as a father would advise a son. Dr. Davis by word and example taught all those with whom he came in contact to do honest, good and thorough work. He tried to bring out the best that was in a man.

As a teacher of clinical medicine he had no peer. His word pictures of disease made one actually see the patient suffering before his eyes. His methods of diagnosis were not always systematic and classic, but they were rational always and always sufficient to enable him to make a diagnosis. His prognostic powers were co-equal with his skill of description and diagnosis.

I have never heard, in any country, another man who could as clearly describe a disease and demonstrate the condition in the patient before him, as Dr. Davis. FRANK BILLINGS.

From Dr. Frank S. Johnson, a former pupil, and afterwards a colleague of Dr. Davis in Northwestern University Medical School:

Dr. Davis was pre-eminently a man of force and a man of high character. He added strength to any position he occupied. As a teacher such a man has unusual influence, his normally superior position relatively to his students, attains still greater eminence with his occupancy.

In person he was a thin, spare man, with a full, large forehead, dark, somewhat bushy hair, keen eyes, a firm mouth, and even in repose his face wore an expression of alertness and determination. His chief characteristic was energy, and behind it was an orderly mind. His mental operations were prompt and positive. In the classroom, and at the bedside clinic his quick ob-

servation and fine discrimination were in themselves a splendid lesson, a revelation of attainment in method and in practice. His descriptions of disease were vivid, and his plans of methodically managing its varying phases were characteristic of a mind that as far as possible pursued all problems to a positive conclusion. His personal relations with his students were very pleasant. He encouraged every earnest worker by kindly help and wise advice —but to the willful wrongdoer he meted out a full measure of his indignation.

As a teacher of young men his efforts passed beyond the bounds of medicine. He thoroughly believed that a physician should represent the highest type of manhood and at every opportunity he endeavored to instill into the minds of his students high appreciations of life and of duty, and to fire them with an enthusiasm that would fully develop each one's latent powers.

FRANK JOHNSON.

From Prof. William E. Quine, M. D., LL. D., a former colleague of Dr. Davis in the Chicago Medical College:

Dr. Davis was the greatest physician and teacher of medicine I have ever known. He was great as a diagnostician, great as a therapist, great as to benevolence of nature, great as to dignity of ideals, great in respect to fidelity to duty, great as to capacity for public utterance, and great as an explainer of the complexities of science.

In no unimportant measure his greatness was owing to sincerity and purity of purpose, to capacity for initiative and to a powerful, dominant, convincing and compelling personality.

As a medical teacher his value to the medical profession and to society depended more upon the power of his character and his example, than upon his capacity to expound the facts and theories of medical science.

His pupils have had to unlearn and forget many of the lessons of the class-room; but the influence of his nature upon theirs will live and bear fruit as long as they live, and, in many instances, be transmitted by them to oncoming medical classes—and through these to generations yet unborn.

He was a great exemplar. That he could be a violent partisan and, on occasions, even intolerant and rancorous, will not be denied by any who have been in close relations with him; but his

heart was soft, his sincerity splendid, and his courage equal to any demand upon it.

He was slavishly good to the poor—good to the point of self-immolation to God's poor and to the devil's—with impartial favor; and the poor were his most valued friends and his most loving mourners.

Dr. Davis has done more good and less harm than any physician I have ever known. WM. E. QUINE.

In the following words, Prof. John Henry Wigmore, A. M., LL. B., Dean of the Northwestern University Law School, refers to Dr. Davis:

"On June 16th, 1904, the morning of commencement, Dr. Nathan Smith Davis, Sr., formerly lecturer in the Law School on Medical Jurisprudence, died at his home in Huron street, Chicago. He was eighty-eight years old. For thirty years, with but slight interruptions, he lectured on Medical Jurisprudence in the school, beginning about 1866 (when it was the Union College of Law), and delivered the course for the last time in 1895, when the School quarters were in the Masonic Temple. His frankness and firmness of character, his moral earnestness and his breadth of view, gave his lectures an individuality and interest far greater than such a course usually can possess. The course, indeed, existed *for* Dr. Davis and *was* Dr. Davis, and those who had the privilege of attending it gained the inspiration of the man, the scholar, and the reformer. Dr. Davis' relations of service to the University, to his profession and to Chicago and the West, were important and manifold. He was a leader and a tireless laborer in every good work relating to his profession. His last appearance before the School was on May 23, 1902, at the farewell reception, at the University Club, given by the students of the School to Dr. Harvey B. Hurd, on the occasion of his retirement from active work in the School. Dr. Davis was especially invited, as Dr. Hurd's oldest colleague, to be present and recount something of his recollections of old times." His special theme was his recollections of Senator Douglas, who was his personal friend, and whom he attended in his last illness.

A brief extract from Dr. Davis' "Recollections of Old Times," will show his estimate of Stephen A. Douglas, of whom he was a great admirer: "Mr. Douglas had remarkable power, as a speaker, to control men's opinions, if they listened to him. There was

something so magnetic about him that when he could gain the attention of a popular audience, he was very sure to bring them to agree with his own views. The secret of it was that he had planted himself from the beginning of his career upon the great fundamental principle of free government. It was absolute home rule that he advocated, and when they listened to him he carried the populace with him, in spite of all reverses. He believed in a free government, a free people, free institutions, free trade, and the right of every man or nation to decide and act for himself or themselves, with the utmost freedom." And this was the political platform of Dr. Davis.

From Otto Raymond Barnett, Esq., a prominent member of the Chicago Bar, and a former pupil of Dr. Davis, in the Northwestern University School of Law:

"Nathan S. Davis, Sr., a teacher of profound learning combined with great simplicity of manner, gentle, kindly, equally free from scholastic phraseology, oratorical pose or dogmatic assertion, his delivery was deliberate, his exposition of a subject in non-technical terms was illuminating and his knowledge of that whereof he spoke was complete. His convictions as to matters of right and wrong were stated in no uncertain terms. His hatred of wrong was ever intense and outspoken. In his later days his ever welcome, strong, kind, *quiet* face, white hair and slightly stooped figure seemed that of the typical old-time family doctor, the counsellor and friend as well as the physician.

"As one who had been close to humanity's weaknesses, temptations and struggles, he taught the young not only from his knowledge of medical science but continually through it all he taught kindness, gentleness, manhood, good citizenship and the higher ideals of everyday living, as one who having travelled far through life felt it to be his duty, as it was undoubtedly his pleasure, to inspire those who followed to live up to the best that was in them. Such was Nathan S. Davis, Sr., the teacher whom we hold in tender, reverent memory. OTTO R. BARNETT."

CHAPTER XVIII.

Personal and Reminiscent.

We have already noticed the fact that Dr. Davis, in his callow days, was somewhat given to politics, and that he "stumped" Broome County, New York—where he then resided—in the interests of Martin Van Buren for the Presidency in the campaign of 1839-40. But the "land-slide" from Jackson and Van Buren to the hero of Tippecanoe, and the consequent collapse of the old "National Democratic Party" seems to have cooled his political ardor, and we hear no more of "stump" political efforts. He was a Democrat all his life, but he never obtruded his political opinions, or took any active or public part in political campaigns. On more than one occasion, after he came to Chicago, he was urged to "run" for Congress, but declined, and we well remember that his name was prominently and seriously considered as the candidate of his party for Governor of Illinois, but he gave no encouragement to the proposition.

On the 18th of April, 1861, we find him on the platform in Bryan Hall, with Brainard, Boone and other medical men, on the occasion of a mass meeting, or "war meeting," as such gatherings were called, for the purpose of arousing the enthusiasm and stirring the patriotism of the people in support of the government in its efforts to "put down the rebellion," as we used to express it in those strenuous days. None of the physicians present seem to have been called upon for any patriotic eloquence.

After the fire of 1871, the physicians of the country contributed a fund for the relief of Chicago physicians who were burnt out, and needed financial aid. Dr. Davis was treasurer of the fund, which amounted to $10,781.08. In his final report, the treasurer shows where and how he disbursed $10,781.00 only, and we try to imagine what sort of extravagance he was tempted to indulge in by the possession of that elusive eight cents.

There was also a Special Relief Committee for the help of burned out church members, and Dr. Davis represented the Methodist Episcopal Church on that committee.

On Thursday, Jany. 20, 1887, being the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Davis' entrance to the medical profession, the students of the Chicago Medical College presented him with a "magnificent arm chair, and a valuable and beautiful revolving set of reference shelves."*

**Jour. A. M. A.*, Jan'y 29, 1887.

Dr. Davis visited England twice, but did not extend his travels to the continent.

His first trip was in 1886, after his selection as the candidate for the Presidency of the approaching International Medical Congress, in 1887. He went as one of the delegates from the *American Medical Association,* who were authorized to invite the members of the British Medical Association to attend the Congress, and as Dr. Davis was prospective President of the Congress, his appointment as delegate to the British Association was peculiarly appropriate. The British Medical Association met at Brighton, August 12th, 1886, and our delegates were treated with great courtesy and kindness by their trans-Atlantic brethren. On the third day of the session, they were given a public reception, and an opportunity to state the object of their mission. Dr. Davis was selected as the spokesman, and he delivered an address which did credit to himself and his country, and which was received with unusual enthusiasm by our sober English confreres. The invitation was accepted on the spot, and a large delegation of the most eminent medical men in the United Kingdom attended the International Medical Congress at Washington in 1887.

On the morning of Friday, Aug. 13, 1886, at the "Royal Pavilion," Brighton, the "National Temperance League" gave a breakfast at which Dr. Davis was a guest of honor. Mr. John Taylor—whoever he may have been—one of those who "supported" Mr. Marriage Wallis, J. P. (just why Mr. Marriage Wallis, J. P., needed to be "supported" at a temperance breakfast we are not informed), "regretted the absence of the Lord Bishop of London. It was quite his Lordship's intention to have presided over the meeting, but the early breaking up of Parliament had altered all his arrangements." And then in concluding one of those speeches in the delivery of which a courteous Englishman is the peer of all the world, Mr. John Taylor said, "they had amongst them a distinguished American, Dr. Davis (loud cheers), and he begged to move the following resolution:" "'That this company of members of the British Medical Association, assembled at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on the invitation of the National Temperance League, welcomes the presence of Dr. Nathan S. Davis and his companion delegates from the American Medical Association, and congratulates Professor Davis on his ardent and consistent practice of total abstinence for over half a century, and trusts he may long be spared in his intelligent and earnest advocacy of the sacred cause of Temperance" (loud applause).* Dr. Norman Kerr seconded the resolution "in felicitous terms," and it was carried by acclamation. Then the guest of honor took the floor, and then he "took" the audience. For more than half an

**Sussex* (England) *Daily News,* Aug. 14, 1886.

hour he spoke with his accustomed fluency and power, and King Alcohol never got a more vigorous scoring than was administered then and there. It was a great event in the life of a great man; a man who was great enough for the occasion. It was an hour in which every American medical man ought to feel a personal pride. "The conclusion of Dr. Davis' address was the signal for long-continued applause."*

The address was punctuated by frequent outbursts of applause, and the speaker evidently had what the older Methodist preachers used to call "a good time."

After attending the British Medical Association to its close and after also attending several of the social gatherings, which always enliven the meetings of the British Medical Association, as well as our own, Dr. Davis visited London, and was the guest of the late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, who was one of the medical "lions" of London, and who richly deserved to occupy the high eminence he attained. These two men, so like and so unlike, would find many topics upon which they would meet on a common and very familiar ground, and it need not be doubted that it was a season of unalloyed enjoyment to them both.

After a few days in London he went to Cambridge, and visited the ancient University, whereof England is so justly proud. He was accompanied by Dr. W. H. Pancoast, of Philadelphia, and they were entertained by some of the distinguished medical men of Cambridge, in an informal but very cordial manner.

He arrived at home after about six weeks' absence, greatly benefited by the rest and novelty, and this was the longest vacation that he had ever taken.

Many of us Americans, when we get over to Europe, find very great difficulty in procuring drinking water that agrees with our delicate "primæ viæ," and we find ourselves forced to resort to wine or some other beverage of like nature, which we rigidly eschew and perhaps vociferously denounce at home. But it is perfectly safe to assert that Dr. Davis experienced no difficulty in finding his favorite beverage, "aqua pura," and that he came home as innocent of the taste of wine as when he started.

In 1888 he was again abroad, and in attendance upon the British Medical Association at its meeting in Glasgow, largest, finest and thriftiest of the Scottish cities. This time, although he went as plain "Dr. Davis," he was the recipient of much attention, and many individual acts of kindness and courtesy from the English and Scotch medical fraternity.

After the adjournment of the British Medical Association at Glasgow, he went to Edinburgh by way of the "Trossachs" and Stirling Castle,

*Ibid.

and it would be interesting if we could know how deeply the emotions of this severely practical man were stirred, as he made this romantic journey, where history and tragedy and romance and poetry, jostle each other at every turn.

After a brief visit to Edinburgh, which was made pleasant and profitable by the medical men of that beautiful and picturesque old city, so famous in history, theology, law, literature and medicine, he returned home, and never saw Europe again.

In January, 1886, at a time when he was burdened with the duties incident to his official position in the approaching International Medical Congress, and while he was at the same time editing the *Journal of the American Medical Association,* attending to his enormous office practice, and to his duties in Mercy Hospital and the Chicago Medical College, he was stricken by an attack of cerebral hemorrhage, and nearly complete right hemiplegia resulted. At that time the writer was a member of the faculty of the college, and he has a vivid recollection of the shock which the first announcement of Prof. Davis' illness gave the faculty, and the insurmountable difficulties we expected to encounter in filling his place—for we supposed his work on earth was done. But he rallied with unexpected rapidity, and in a few weeks was out again. On a certain day the rumor reached the college that Prof. Davis would lecture that afternoon, and immediately his class bestirred themselves in preparing to give their distinguished Professor a royal reception. The decorations were all in place; the lecture room was crowded with an eager and expectant band of students, every one nearly bursting with suppressed applause; the silence grew more and more oppressive, as the slow-going hands on the clock seemed to purposely lag and linger; but the anxious moment arrived, the bell rang, the door slowly opened and the Professor appeared, and then pandemonium broke forth; the applause was deafening, prolonged, and continuous; the Professor stood calmly, patiently, without moving a muscle or uttering a word, until the "boys" had exhausted themselves by their exuberant welcome, when he quietly began his lecture at exactly the point where he had left off several weeks previously, just as though nothing had happened. Prof. Davis lectured ten years longer in the college, but meantime several of the members of that faculty, who expected to select his successor, had gone to their long account.

In June, 1898, he resigned as Dean of the Northwestern University Medical School*—the successor of the Chicago Medical College—and his work as a teacher of medicine, extending over half a century, and from the "dark ages" to the noonday sun of medical science, was forever finished.

*He was, however, Emeritus Dean and Professor, until his death, and I am told that he even delivered an occasional lecture after his resignation.

On the thirteenth day of May, 1905, "Davis Square," Chicago, was dedicated to the uses of the public in perpetuity. It was a post mortem honor paid to the late Dr. N. S. Davis and a peculiarly appropriate honor it was and is. Davis Square is in reality one of the small parks which our broad-minded Park Commissioners have recently been establishing in the poorer and over-crowded districts where the children have absolutely no playground but the hot and dusty street in summer or the filthy muddy street in winter.

It is worth one's while to make a pilgrimage to this crowded neighborhood on a summer afternoon, just to see the groups of happy children at their wild and noisy sports, away from the dirt and peril of the street, with its vices and temptations, and who shall say that the benignant spirit of him after whom this breathing place is named, does not hover over the scene?

Not far distant from the "Square," stands the "Davis School," a modern school edifice, of the commodious and attractive type, wisely adopted a few years since by the Chicago Board of Education. This school house is not like the one its namesake attended eighty years ago, nor are the methods of instruction like those then in vogue. In the Davis School, of Chicago, the swish of the birch twig is not heard, as it viciously curls around the legs of the howling victim. "Corporeal punishment" is one of the relics of the past, and the Davis School is an advanced example of the advanced methods of common school instruction and discipline of to-day.

Some time during the year 1900, I have not been able to get the exact date, Dr. Davis delivered a short address to the so-called "Hundred Year Club," composed of a few aged people who had conceived an ambition to be centenarians, but it is painful to be obliged to announce that now (1907), seven years after the doctor's address, nearly all of the members of that club have given up the ghost, and likewise their hope of wishes of "many happy returns" on their hundredth birthday. Among those present on that unique occasion were Dr. Adam Miller, Dr. J. B. Walker and "Aunt" Lizzie Aiken, the latter so well known to all the old soldiers. As Dr. Davis' address was quite short, and as it was one of the last if not the last of his public addresses, we reproduce it entire. It is as follows, and of course it is entirely extemporary:

"There is no patent right for the promotion of longevity. To lay down arbitrary rules on this subject is sheer nonsense; what would be judicious for one would not be for another. The way to promote longevity is simply to promote good health by obeying the laws which God has given to man. The first steps toward maintaining good health in obedience to God's laws are to eat good, simple, plain, wholesome food; to exercise the body in

a rational manner; to breathe fresh, pure air; to drink good, pure water, and let everything else alone—rigidly.

"Nature's great restorer is sleep. Individuals vary as to the amount of sleep required. For one engaged in active manual labor, eight hours are about the average; for one less actively engaged in physical exertion, an hour or an hour and a half less. Regularity should be observed in the manner of living so far as possible. Eating, sleeping, working, taking recreation, etc., should be reduced to as systematic a basis as can be established with propriety. Regularity in these things conduces to long life.

"The average duration of life has been considerably increased, particularly in the last two centuries—perhaps more during the nineteenth century than in any time before. But there is a reason for this growth in longevity. During all the centuries from the beginning of the Christian era down to the eighteenth century, what was called the civilized part of the world was scourged annually by sweeping epidemics and almost constant wars. Devastating wars pave the way for poverty, wretchedness and famine. Then comes the plague. Before the discovery of vaccination smallpox almost depopulated Europe.

"In the present state of society it is not possible to apply any set of rules which would enable a man to live 100 years or longer. But if we could take a state as a thing apart, erect a high wall around it, and regulate the food, the work, the sleep, the exercise, the recreation, the habits of daily life, and above all the propagation of the species, we could without doubt steadily increase the vigor of the population, so that after a century of experiment the majority of the people would live beyond 100 years. But tobacco and alcohol would have to be excluded absolutely from this state.

"We can never produce a race of centenarians as long as the evils of tobacco and alcohol and heredity are present to combat and nullify the efforts of those who obey the laws of God. One family may live right, in obedience to hygiene and temperance; a neighbor family may have children conceived by parents impregnated with alcohol, nicotine and tobacco oil; the children of the two families intermarry, and this knocks in the head every tendency toward long life.

"As for myself, I am past 83, and I have one brother who is just past 85. My father lived to be 90. It may be said that I belong to what is called a long-lived family. Many of the family lived to be from 75 to 85, and my ancestors, generally speaking, were above the average in tenacity of life.

"Work has not killed me. Indeed, few are killed by work. When you hear that this or that man has broken down and died from overwork, you

may be sure that it was not the work that killed, but worry or excesses in living.

"I have always been a great walker, and still take to that form of exercise, walking to my office, a distance of a mile or more, and home again, winter and summer. When I reach the office building I don't wait for the elevator. At the foot of the stairs I pause long enough to take a long, deep breath, then mount the flight, after which I feel but little fatigue. I used to beat the old-fashioned street cars and omnibuses in Chicago on foot, but I wouldn't like to try to do it now. The cars have gained in speed, while I have doubtless gone back.

"But I used to walk and walk and walk day and night in pursuit of my calling, hardly ever reaching home until 11 or 12 at night. I have always eaten what was set before me, whether animal or vegetable food, the chief point being not to eat too much. Outdoor exercise prepares a man for good food. All my life I have made it a rule to begin the day with a good, hearty breakfast. It has always been one of the best meals to me. I have never had any use for the fashionable breakfast, consisting of a cup of coffee and a roll."

(For the privilege of printing the foregoing address, I am indebted to Mrs. Harriet Taylor of the Newberry Library.—I. N. D.)

Nearly all of Dr. Davis' autograph manuscript, and all the letters accumulated through his extensive correspondence with medical men, except half a dozen or so, which are of no special value, have been destroyed; a fact which has handicapped and embarrassed his biographer to no small degree. A public man's life is revealed more fully and accurately by his correspondence, than through any other source, and it is a loss to the world when such a direct and authentic source of information is inaccessible. But one manuscript, supposed to have been lost, has been discovered by the writer, namely, the original draft of his Presidential address, before the International Medical Congress of 1887, and the photographer has reproduced the closing sentence in fac simile.*

Dr. Davis left but a small estate, in spite of his very large and really lucrative practice. And no wonder. He gave away money right and left, and without that exercise of good judgment which distinguished him in other matters. He was frugal in his personal expenses, and while he always maintained his family in a style of liberal and wholesome comfort, no unwise or unnecessary extravagances were indulged in or even desired. His home life was ideal; no more perfect example of what a home should be could be found anywhere than the home of Dr. and Mrs. N. S. Davis. But as a

*See following page.

I congratulate you on the fact that the profession you represent, has taken the lead of all other professions or classes of men, in rendering available these grand material achievements of the age, for cultivating fraternal relations, developing and interchanging knowledge, and placing concerted action for rendering human life everywhere, healthier, happier and of longer duration. P. This is the Ninth grand International Congress in regular series, within little more than two decades, and let us hope that all its work will, not only, be done in harmony and good order, but with such results as will add much to the aggregate of human happiness through all the coming generations! P. Without trespassing further on your patience, I must ask your forbearance with my own imperfect qualifications, and your generous assistance in the discharge of the responsible duties you have devolved upon me.

PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTION OF THE CONCLUSION OF DR. DAVIS' PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS, WHICH ASSEMBLED AT WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPT. 5TH, 1887.

financier the doctor was about on a par with the great majority of us medical men.

It is very interesting as well as remarkable that up to within ten days of his death he earned a good professional income, notwithstanding he was 87 years old.

At the meeting of the *American Medical Association* in Portland, Oregon, July, 1905, a committee was appointed "to secure a proper memorial of Dr. Davis" and Dr. H. O. Marcy, of Boston, was made chairman.

The committee consists of one member from each State, and Dr. Wm. E. Quine, of Chicago, who is vice chairman of the committee, represents Illinois. It is the desire of the committee to raise not less than thirty thousand dollars, to be invested as a memorial fund, the annual interest to be used in the promotion of original investigations in the field of pathology or some cognate subject; or to be expended for the erection of a permanent monument, which shall be a memorial of Dr. Davis. If the matter could be left to the beneficiary himself, anybody can tell which of the two objects he would choose, but the Association will doubtless make a wise decision, as soon as the money is forthcoming. It is a project that does honor to its projector, Dr. Marcy, for many years an intimate friend of Dr. Davis. Dr. Marcy delivered an eloquent and exhaustive oration on the "Life and Character" of Dr. Davis at the Portland meeting of the *American Medical Association* in 1905, from which an extract is printed in Chap. XVII.

The author must again express his regret that he has been unable to trace the ancestry of Dr. Davis beyond his father, Dow Davis, although he has made strenuous efforts, with the aid of a genealogical expert, Mrs. Harriet Taylor, in the Newberry Library to do so. But there is reasonable ground for the conjecture that he was of Puritan descent, that his direct ancestors emigrated from England to the "Bay Colony," along with the many thousands that fled from the Stuart persecutions between 1630 and 1640, and that less remote ancestors subsequently emigrated from Massachusetts Bay to the vicinity of the present site of Troy, New York. There the trail, indistinct and doubtful at best, seems at the present time to be hopelessly lost.

CONCLUSION.

A Character Study.

When we study the personality of N. S. Davis, we are confronted with a puzzling medley of incompatibilities, which are, at first glance, inexplicable. Here we see a man of the highest type of character, who enjoys and richly merits the absolute confidence of his fellow men, and whose kindness of heart is so well known that it has passed into a proverb; yet who is liable to passionate outbursts of temper and violent torrents of invective, that ill-become a truly great character, but in a spirit of charity are forgiven by his friends, because they are "peculiarities" of Dr. Davis.

His biographer is not called upon to apologize for, or to pass over in silence, the weaknesses and foibles of his subject, any more than he is called upon to unduly magnify or unjustly minimize his truly great qualities; but it is his duty to account for, or admit his inability to account for, the asperities of the otherwise ideal character he has endeavored to portray. We shall try to explain, so far as an explanation is possible, the temperamental "peculiarities" of the great man, whose unique personality commands our increasing admiration, as our familiarity therewith becomes more and more perfect.

As a bold and striking object lesson, in the study of evolution considered from the standpoint of anthropology, no better example could be found than Dr. N. S. Davis, and his rugged, stalwart, transparent character.

However self-poised and independent a man may be, he is more or less influenced by his environment, and he cannot help himself. Moreover, the old saw, "as the twig is bent the tree is inclined," is just as true to-day as it ever was, which means that it is absolutely true. A man is influenced to his dying day by the scenes and experiences of his childhood, although he may not know it, or may even refuse to admit it. A striking example of this we have already noted, in the far-reaching influence of the promise the child N. S. Davis—then only seven years old—made to his dying mother.

Let us glance at his childhood, not as sentimentalists, but as students. He was born amidst forbidding and depressing surroundings. He first saw the light—although not very much of it—through the diminutive windows of a log house, which stood in a sparsely settled neighborhood.

surrounded by the virgin forest, which cast its gloomy shadows athwart the sky. There is something weird and solemn about the forest, and as the child gazed into its mysterious depths, its indefinable influence was felt, unconsciously of course, but none the less really, and it became one of the formative factors of the sober-minded future man. At the tender age of seven years he lost his mother, and he was thus deprived of the gentle touch and refining influences, which only a mother can impart. It may be laid down as an axiom that the child who passes his early years without maternal discipline and guidance, is deprived of something for which no adequate substitute can be provided. It is during the early years if ever, and under a mother's wise and unerring discipline, that control of the passions is acquired, and that an unruly temper is brought under subjection. Thus the childhood of young Davis lacked two factors that are absolutely essential, if the foundation of a symmetrical character is to be laid, namely, a home and an environment such as a log cabin, in the midst of a frowning wilderness could not furnish, and the care and discipline, which only a mother's love can inspire.

As the years go by, and he becomes a youth, it is a sad picture that comes before us. Here is a boy with a precocious mind and a precocious conscience, spurred by an ambition for knowledge and education, but fettered by poverty and his ideas of "duty," which bind him to the monotony of the plough and the harrow. His days are a round of labor; his nights are passed in the gloomy log house, without books or pictures or any of the accessories of home, which we now deem necessities, and absolutely without cheerful or congenial companionship. Is it any wonder that the rough diamond retained many of its angularities through life, in spite of its being a diamond of the "first water?"

At the present day we are paying great attention to our public schools. We insist upon commodious, cleanly, well-ventilated buildings, with some pretentions to architectural beauty; we provide adequate means for illustration, in the way of maps, globes, pictures, apparatus, and whatever else modern ideas of the education of children may require. We also insist that teachers shall be properly qualified for their work, that they shall be imbued with that degree of enthusiasm and love for their work that ensures results, and we also ordain that the old-fashioned rawhide, the ruler, the well tanned "birch rod," and other implements of "corporeal punishment" shall be banished from the school room, absolutely and forever.*

*In his childhood days, the writer "went to school" to a "master" who always kept a rawhide hanging over his desk; that is, when it was not "in use." The memory of that instrument of torture is still vividly impressed on the writer's mind—and elsewhere.

But the public schools of eighty years ago, and from that time down to fifty, or even forty years ago, were a standing disgrace. The school houses were ugly, dirty, empty and forbidding; no means of illustration beyond a blackboard were furnished; the teachers were generally strangers to the "committee man" and everybody else, and they were employed for a single term, without much regard to their educational qualifications, except a capacity for "governing," and that was simply a question of brawn and muscle; corporeal punishment was of almost daily occurrence, and he was the hero of the school who could take a "licking" with the greatest fortitude, while the actual teaching was pretty much limited to the three "R's," with perhaps a smattering of history and geography. A false idea of honor prevailed; not the best student, but the best fighter; not he who could "parse" a sentence from the "Village Blacksmith" most correctly, but he who could organize and lead a mob of the "biggest boys," while they pitched the "schoolmaster" into a snow bank; he was the real hero of the school, upon whom the "small boys" looked with both adoration and envy.* Could there be anything refining or elevating in attendance upon such schools as I have described? Take the case of a boy like young Davis; serious and thoughtful; hungering for knowledge, but without a bit of the "rough and tumble" fighting spirit, which possessed most of the country lads of that day; without congenial companionship, and limited to the slender resources of the farm, the "meeting house" and the school; what wonder that he wrapped the mantle of his reserve more closely about him, and communed only with nature and his God.

Another factor in the life of Dr. Davis had much to do with developing his innate pugnacity, and placing him always on the defensive, namely, pretty much all his life he was rowing against the current, and the current sometimes might appropriately be called the "rapids." During his very first course of medical lectures, the absurdity of the methods of teaching medicine struck him so forcibly, that he at once resolved on a campaign in the interests of higher general and medical education. And shortly after he began that long and strenuous series of efforts, in the face of determined opposition, which resulted in the organization of the *American Medical Association* and its endorsement of its founder's ideas as to a radical change in the theory and practice of educating young men for the medical profession. But it was no easy task, and its effects on the young man who marshalled the forces, was what might be expected; it stiffened his

*Of course I am speaking of remote country schools, in the sparsely settled districts of northern New England and central New York, and not of schools in the larger cities, though they were nothing to brag of, half a century ago.—I. N. D.

mental backbone, which needed no stiffening, and hardened an imperiou will, which needed influences in the opposite direction.

When he came to Chicago and entered the faculty of Rush Medica College, he found exactly the educational methods in vogue that he had s severely condemned in other schools; and now he found himself a partici pant in just these methods. And then he began that campaign whicl eventuated in the disruption of the faculty of Rush Medical College, an the establishment of the Chicago Medical College along the lines of Dr Davis' own ideas; but this cost a hot controversy with that other imperiou autocrat, Dr. Daniel Brainard, and the feud between these two grea men remained an open sore, until the death of the latter in 1866. Durin this period of disputation, Dr. Davis was rowing against the rapids wit a vengeance, and nothing but his iron will and unconquerable determina tion, enabled him to stem the current, and reach comparatively calme waters. But there were no softening or refining influences to be gotte out of a contest so strenuous and prolonged.

Quite early in his professional life he commenced an active campaig against intemperance, and thus arrayed against himself the liquor selle and the liquor consumer. In his temperance work, Dr. Davis was alway very radical and uncompromising; he demanded absolute "teetotalism, and he included all forms of intoxicants, under whatever name or guis they might appear.* Of course so radical a departure from the habit and customs which long use had sanctioned, brought him into controvers with older men of all classes and callings, and again, alone and unaided he was rowing against the tide of public and professional opinion. W cannot help admiring the oaken toughness of fibre which it took for young man to stand, like Luther at the Diet of Worms, in defiance of popu lar and professional opinion, at the bidding of his conscience, and his ex alted ideas of duty; but we must consider also that while he was fightin King Alcohol, he was not acquiring a spirit of compromise, or a sunn temper.

Of course beneath all these external and accidental causes was th underlying fact that Dr. Davis was by nature a man of iron will, of posi tive opinions, and unyielding determination; when these innate attribute are made to pass through the trials we have recounted, the result is th unique personality, known in the flesh as N. S. Davis.

In early life, however, young Davis encountered two softening, re

*I once saw him, while he was conversing with a friend at a banquet, uncon sciously taste of a frozen mixture, which came on "in course," called, I think, "Ro man punch"; it contained, or he thought it contained, some form of spirituous liquo and I remember the smile that went around the table, as the Doctor pushed aside th glass in deep disgust.—I. N. D.

fining and elevating factors, both of which accompanied him to his dying hour, and exerted an incalculable influence for good in the shaping of his rugged character.

The first of these was the Christian religion, which he embraced at the age of sixteen, while attending the Cazenovia Seminary. Whatever may have been his spiritual experiences, we may be sure that he had a clear and convincing intellectual apprehension of the eternal verities of the religion of the Bible, and that his "conversion" was not the mere sentimental or emotional whim of a callow youth. At all events, he never faltered or wavered or doubted, but to the last moment of his life his conviction was perfectly clear that he "knew in whom he had trusted."

The other, and equally momentous event, was his marriage to Anna Maria Parker, March 5th, 1838, daughter of Hon. John Parker, of Vienna, New York.

Anna Maria Parker was a descendant, in the seventh generation, of Anthony Stoddard, who "emigrated from England and came to Boston about 1639," was made a "Freeman" in 1640, and thenceforth took an active part in town matters. He was evidently a Puritan, who came to the "Bay Colony" along with twenty thousand more of the best blood of England, to escape the Stuart persecutions, and let us, who have descended from those stalwart Puritans, not forget to return thanks to the House of Stuart for the expatriation of our ancestors!

When Nathan S. Davis and Anna Maria Parker were married he was barely twenty-one, and she was not quite eighteen. But she developed into a strong, self-poised woman, and from the day of that happy marriage until his death, she was his constant helper and counsellor, and never-failing comforter. Her influence over him was so unobtrusive and gentle that it never became unwelcome, in fact was scarcely felt, but who will dare try to estimate its aggregate and ultimate result?

This brings us to that period of Dr. Davis' life when he was at the zenith of his intellectual strength; when his character and personality had reached their full maturity; and when we have before us the fully-developed and fully-equipped man, at the summit of his active and fruitful career. And what are the leading elements of this strong and rugged character?

First. He was an honest man. By this I do not mean that he paid such taxes as he could not escape, and charged his patients no more visits than he made. I do not mean that he was what is so aptly called "law honest," and therefore never got caught doing wrong. A great many of us could measure up to that standard. But his standard of honesty was of that lofty type, that he would not even deceive himself. He held himself to a strict account, and his severely exacting conscience was his mas-

ter. If a thing was right he endorsed it; if a thing was wrong he condemned it.

Nor was he governed or even influenced by any considerations of "policy" or the effect of his conduct on his personal interests. The question of right or wrong was the paramount question; so long as he was right, or believed he was right, he went ahead and left consequences to take care of themselves. Of course he made enemies; such men always do; of course he had many opponents and many a parliamentary battle at the meetings of the various organizations to which he belonged. But however radically his friends or professional brethren might dissent from his conclusions, his thorough-going honesty of purpose, and his conscientious desire to say and do the right thing, were never questioned. Few indeed are the men of whom so sweeping an assertion can be made.

Secondly. Dr. Davis was a fearless man. He could not be frightened or driven from a position or conviction which he felt called upon to defend. He did not act hastily; he was the very antipodes of a creature of impulse, in spite of his occasional temperamental storms; his conclusions were carefully thought out, and arrived at deliberately; but when he arrived at a definite conclusion as to whither his duty led him, he was as immovable as the eternal granite. Many times I have heard him called "pig-headed," "obstinate" and "opinionated," all of which seemed true to the persons uttering these epithets, because they could not compass the mental processes through which Dr. Davis reached his anchorage. Many times was he assailed in public debate, through the medical and secular press, and by popular clamor, on account of something which he had said or written or done, but unless he was convinced that he was wrong, he was never known to haul down his colors or spike his guns, and it is scarcely necessary to say that he never fired blank cartridges. Neither was he boastfully or offensively aggressive; he had absolutely nothing of the noisy, blatant, "who's afraid" manner of the half-doubting man, who has to whistle or shout to keep up his courage. Dr. Davis had profound faith in himself, and fearlessness that is grounded upon faith is as invincible to-day as it was in the days of the Christian martyrs. *Nec temere nec timide,* might well have been the motto of this stalwart man.

Third. He was a broad-gauged man. He was also, and perhaps more properly, a far-sighted man. His plans were never made for to-day merely, but for to-morrow and the far off future as well. The most conspicuous example of his long-range vision, is the *American Medical Association* of to-day, as compared with its feeble and halting beginning. From the very inception of the movement which culminated in the successful organization of the Association, down to his last year of active participation in its

councils, Dr. Davis kept in mind and urged upon the Association from year to year, his views with regard to higher medical education, and he lived long enough to see his ideas adopted by every medical school in good standing in the country. He was pre-eminently a man of hard common sense; he was never a dreamer or a visionary; consequently his plans were always carefully considered and thoroughly matured, before they were presented for the consideration of others. Of course he was always sure to have a respectful hearing, and he rarely failed to carry conviction and achieve his object. Because he was broad-gauged, he was generally successful in his enterprises, although his superb confidence in himself inspired the confidence of others, and thus increased his power and influence. More than once or twice have the old Chicago Medical College, Mercy Hospital and the Washingtonian Home had occasion to rejoice in the support of this strong, undaunted man, with his resourceful tact and masterful confidence, when the clouds were gathering over them, and the breakers were dead ahead. One such personality in a Board of Directors or a college faculty, diffuses its strength through the whole body, and acts as a saving tonic in times of weakness.

Fourth. Dr. Davis was an altruist. An altruist, says the Century Dictionary, and dear old Noah Webster's unabridged, "is a person devoted to the welfare of others." Backed by these eminent authorities, I make bold to pronounce the late Nathan Smith Davis an "unabridged" altruist. I believe this rather unusual term was first employed by the French philosopher, Comte, to distinguish a person who was the antithesis of an egotist. It therefore applies to Dr. Davis with special aptness, for with all his stalwart self-confidence, he was no egotist. There is no hyperbole in the proposition that Dr. Davis "devoted himself to the welfare of others." Not a single one of the various enterprises in which he was engaged, promised or yielded any pecuniary profit, and most of them cost him considerable sums of money. I remember hearing him remark, however, on one occasion, when he was urged to give up a certain professorship, that he felt he must retain that particular position, because it was the only one that paid or ever had paid him anything. Of course his immense labors in medical teaching and hospital service were altogether gratuitous, and he was fortunate if gratuitous services did not have to be seasoned every now and then with a gratuity of money. The gratuitous services that he rendered to poor patients in his office and at their homes, will never be known in this world, and certainly Dr. Davis never knew himself. He was constantly giving away money to this, that and the other object, keeping no account of his benevolences, and many times without being able to recall the object of his gratuity himself. He was tenderly regardful of the

financial ability of his patients, in the matter of fees for his services. Indeed it was frequently a matter of complaint and criticism among his professional contemporaries—myself among the rest—that he was needlessly and unwisely moderate in his charges, when the real value of his services was considered.

The Divine Altruist "went about doing good," and he frequently charged the recipients of his benefactions, "that they should tell no man." In this regard, as in many others, Dr. Davis was an humble, and, it may be, unconscious follower of the Master to whose service he consecrated his life while he was yet in his early teens.

Fifth. Dr. Davis was a public-spirited citizen. He gave his services, his time, his counsel, and his money to any and every cause that appealed to his judgment as a good and worthy cause, and likely to benefit his fellow-men. As we heard him say, in an after-dinner address in 1901, when he was eighty-four years of age: "Whatever comes up that seems to be important and will improve my fellow men, my impulse is to do what I can to help it along." And that was the rule of his life from early boyhood until, burdened with years and infirmities of body, he entered into rest.

In a previous chapter I have pointed out the various scientific and eleemosynary institutions that he was active either in founding or maintaining, or both. Most of these are still in existence, and are a part of the legacy he left to his fellow citizens, at the close of his long and fruitful life; a life, as I have already had occasion to remark more than once, beautiful for its symmetry, its consistency and its ceaseless activity.

Sixth. As we have already seen, Dr. Davis was a Christian, and this in no idle or passive sense. When but a child of seven years, he promised his dying mother "to be a good boy, to learn to worship God and to do good to his fellow men." That solemn death-bed scene made a deep impression upon the plastic mind of this grave and thoughtful child, and it became a permanent increment in his mental make up. In fact the upward current of his life seemed to start from that scene of sorrow. We can easily imagine the lonely little boy, seriously pondering over that farewell promise, with an appreciation of its meaning far beyond his years. His mother was a Methodist, and consequently Nathan's early childhood was passed in an atmosphere of religious training, and this fact would give to the promise made to his mother, under such solemn circumstances, a peculiar and accentuated emphasis.

When young Davis was sixteen years old he attended the Cazenovia Seminary for about six months, and here he was brought under strong religious influences, as "Cazenovia" was a Methodist school, and in those days the "conversion" of the student was deemed quite as important as his

education. It was during this period of attendance at Cazenovia Seminary that he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he remained a loyal, active and devoted member of that communion as long as he lived.

His services to the church of his choice and to its institutions are referred to in another chapter, therefore in this connection it only remains to say a few words about his Christian character. Dr. Davis was not a noisy Christian; he was not a shouting Christian. He did not require a safety-valve in the shape of explosive "hallelujahs" and "amens," which seems so necessary to those whose religion is only "skin deep." Neither was his religion like a kind of surplice, to be worn only on special occasions, and then to be carefully hung away and kept "unspotted from the world." But his Christianity was just like the man himself; genuine, pervasive, a fact and factor of his daily life. He was a Christologist; he knew in whom he trusted and the reasons why. It was not a matter of speculative philosophy; it was a matter of deep, abiding faith, as the result of calm and dispassionate investigation. But behind and above all this, was the hunger of soul which impels every candid, honest and thoughtful man to consider his relations to his Creator and his destiny in that "bourne from which no traveller returns."

Dr. Davis did not "wear" his religion; he assimlated it, and it became a part, and a large part, of the man, on Sundays and week-days, in prosperity and adversity, in joy and sorrow, in youth, in middle life and especially in his last years, when, with prophetic illuminism, he saw the harbor lights of his eternal home.

APPENDIX.

NOTE—The following letter from Hon. William Jennings Bryan, was received too late for insertion in its proper place, but I take great pleasure in adding an exact photographic copy as an appendix.

I. N. D.

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Lincoln, Neb.,

My dear Sir:-

I attended lectures under Dr N. S. Davis and formed a high opinion of him as a physician and as an instructor. He was much beloved by the students and I consider myself fortunate to have been in his class.

Yours truly
W. J. Bryan

Dr J. N. Danforth
Chicago
Ill.

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